SATURDAY
February 17, 2024

BENGALURU
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Chief Minister, Odisha

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NCP VERSUS NCP

Pawar appeals to SC for urgent hearing

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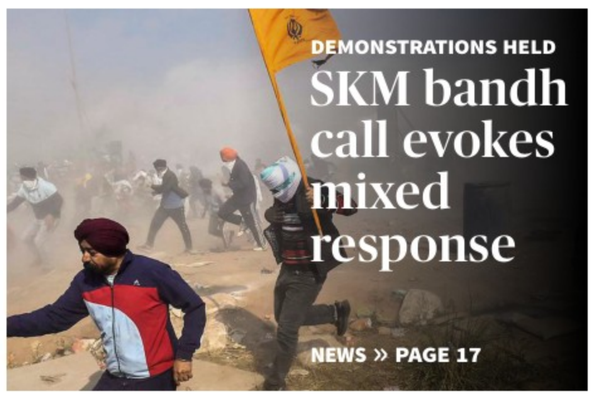

DEMONSTRATIONS HELD

SKM bandh call evokes mixed response

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Russian Opposition leader Navalny dies

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Sticks, stones, and bullet wounds

What led to clashes in the Uttarakhand city?

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MOMENTOUS FEAT

Ashwin claims his 500th Test wicket

SPORT » PAGE 21

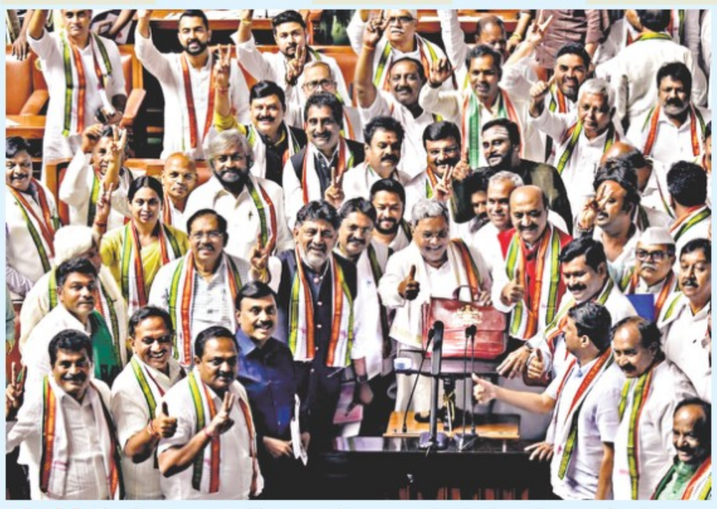
Ahead of LS polls, a welfare-centric State Budget with no new taxes

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

Projecting the "Karnataka Model" of development as an example, by focusing on the five guarantees that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah promised would ensure positive changes in the lives of crores of people – mainly women and marginalised sections – the State Budget for 2024-25 sought to demonstrate that welfare has the pride of place in the Congress government.

Budget at a glance

Total expenditure	Revenue expenditure	Capital expenditure	Loan repayment	Borrowings	Revenue deficit
₹3,71,383 cr.	₹2,90,531 cr.	₹55,877 cr.	₹24,974 cr.	₹1,05,246 cr.	₹27,354 cr.



Gleeful: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah surrounded by legislators after he presented the Budget on Friday.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) estimate for 2024-25: ₹28,09,063 crore

Fiscal deficit: ₹82,981 crore - 2.95% of GSDP

Total liabilities: ₹6,65,095 crore - 23.68% of GSDP - both within the limits mandated under Karnataka Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2022

Revenue deficit

Ahead of the Lok Sabha 2024 elections, Mr. Siddaramaiah has not levied any new taxes. The Budget pegged borrowings at ₹1,05,246 crore, which is 28% of the Budget size of ₹3,71,383 crore in 2024-25.

Revenue deficit is expected to touch ₹27,354 crore. Mr. Siddaramaiah, who holds the Finance portfolio, presented his 15th Budget in the Legislative Assembly on Friday which not only provided financial support for five guarantees, aimed at achieving equitable distribution of wealth in society, but also added more schemes for the welfare of women self-help groups (SHGs), gig workers, and anganwadi workers.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 13

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Cong. gets relief on appeal after I-T lien on accounts

Appellate tribunal steps in after Income Tax dept. sets high lien on 11 bank accounts of the party for discrepancy in 2018-19 tax returns; accounts can now be operated after setting aside ₹115 crore

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday said that all its bank accounts had been frozen by the Income Tax (I-T) department over a discrepancy in filing its 2018-19 tax returns, terming the action an "assault on democracy by the Narendra Modi government" in the run-up to the Lok Sabha election.

The Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) subsequently provided partial relief to the party by allowing it to operate its accounts after setting aside ₹115 crore in lien. "This means that ₹115 crore has been frozen. This amount is much more than we have in our Current Accounts," Congress treasurer Ajay Maken said.

Resenting action: Youth Congress members protest against the Income Tax department decision in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

According to ITAT's Friday order, the Revenue department told the tribunal that it had not issued any orders "for freezing the transactions in the bank account(s), but only for a lien on the amount lying in the bank account(s) up to the outstanding tax demand".

In a post on X, Mr. Maken shared copies of the notices sent to bank branch managers holding them personally liable for ensuring the payment of the Congress's dues, and asked, "Is this not attaching/ seizing / freezing our accounts?"

In all, 11 bank accounts were frozen, including two accounts of the Indian Youth Congress. Mr. Maken said that the accounts were frozen due to an Income Tax department demand of ₹210 crore for the assessment year 2018-19, and a dispute regarding cash receipts of ₹14.4 lakh given to the party by its MLAs and MPs as donations from their salaries.

The party learnt of the I-T department's action on Wednesday, when banks refused to honour cheque payments.

"You all know that 2019 was an election year and the deadline to file returns was extended up to December 31, 2019. We were late in filing our returns only by 40 to 45 days," Mr. Maken said.

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Shri Siddaramaiah
Honourable Chief Minister
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ಸೇವೆಗೆ ಇರಲಿ ಸಹಕಾರ
February, 2024
18
Sunday
10.30 am Onwards
Assembly Constituencies:
Rajarajeshwarinagara, Yeshwanthapura
Venue:
Jnanabharati BP Ed. Ground,
Bangalore University Campus,
Bangalore - 560056
NOTE: Citizens are requested to mandatorily register their written appeals at the designated counters along with a photocopy of Adhaar card or Ration card.
Shri D K Shivakumar
Honourable Deputy Chief Minister

K. MURALI KUMAR

With new life breathed into United, Solskjaer urges club to move with the times

> Something has to happen at Old Trafford, either a renovation or a new stadium. It is going to divide fans for sure. While history is important, we might have to build a new stadium

The former Red Devils player and manager has welcomed the arrival of INEOS owner Jim Ratcliffe, who is set to acquire a minority stake in the club. In the cut-throat world of the Premier League, Solskjaer says United risks 'falling behind if we are staying in the same place'

Ashwin Achal

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is inextricably linked with Manchester United. He gained plaudits in his 11-year stint as a United forward, before serving the club as an ambassador, reserve team manager and manager.

As a player, Solskjaer was an integral part of a powerful side which won trophies galore. The Norwegian built his reputation as a 'super sub', for his knack of coming on and scoring crucial goals as the clock wound down.

Fans will remember an incredible outing in 1999, when Solskjaer smashed four goals in 12 minutes against Nottingham Forest. Brought on by manager Alex Ferguson to replace Dwight Yorke, he powered United to an 8-1 win.

A moment for the ages

It was in the same year that Solskjaer created a career highlight for the ages. In the Champions League final against Bayern Munich, Solskjaer's toe poke past goalkeeper Oliver Kahn, into the roof of the net, in injury time gave United its most famous win.

These epic performances gave rise to his nickname, 'Baby-faced Assassin'. Though Solskjaer built his career on making a big impact as a substitute, it was not his preferred approach. Like all footballers, he wanted a spot in the starting eleven. But once he understood that this was not to be, he made mental adjustments to adapt to his role.

"Ideally, I would have liked to play every minute of every game. But I quickly realised that I played alongside some of the best players in the world, so this was not possible," Solskjaer, who was in Bengaluru on a visit hosted by Tilak Gaurang Shah, founder of 'Ace of Pubs', said.

> [Being United manager is] a great job, but it is also hard. You are the face of the biggest club in the world. You are scrutinised all the time. I needed the break

"I was privileged to play at Manchester United, under the best manager in the world, and at the best club. Manchester United was family; it was home. My job as a substitute was to always be prepared. This quality came from my father, who was a humble and hard-working wrestler," Solskjaer said.

There can be no room for entitlement when given a perceived lesser task, he added. "There are players who will be disappointed if they don't start in the eleven. They may feel entitled, but that's not my personality. I believed that I have to give a good account of myself and my family every time I step onto the pitch."

In the hot seat

After Solskjaer called time on his playing career in 2007, he became the club's reserve team manager for a period. In 2018, Manchester United appointed Solskjaer as caretaker manager, taking over from Jose Mourinho. He was given a permanent role a few months later.

Solskjaer's reign as manager yielded hope, as the club secured back-to-back top-three finishes in the Premier League for the first time in the post-Ferguson era. A string of poor results, however, brought Solskjaer's exit.

"It was the best job in the world. Of course, it is more difficult when [Liverpool manager] Jurgen Klopp and [Manchester City manager] Pep Guardiola are going great guns. It was just bad timing for me, but that is the challenge. You want to go up against the best managers in the world," he said.

"It's a great job, but it is also hard. You are the face of the biggest club in the world. You are scrutinised all the time. I needed the break."

After parting ways with the Red Devils in 2021, Solskjaer has not taken up a managerial assignment. But this is not to say that he is done with the job.

"I'm sure I have at least one more manager gig left in me. I want to feel that pressure. I miss it a little. But with due respect to other clubs, after you manage Manchester United for three years, where do you go?" Solskjaer stated.

The 50-year-old acknowledges that it will be tough to find a gig at a club with as much legacy and stature as United. The prospective employer must also allow Solskjaer to practise his managerial style – giving players freedom to be creative on the field.

"Many coaches now tell players exactly what to do. This is difficult and dangerous to implement. When a player is on the field, he has to make decisions on the spot. Yes, everyone must operate within a framework, but a player cannot pass to the left when the obvious pass is to the right. The likes of Xabi Alonso, Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo make decisions on the pitch. This is what makes them great," Solskjaer said.

A new beginning

The Norwegian explained that it is time for United to build a new stadium in place of Old Trafford, which is not in the best shape.

"We have to move on with the times. At the moment, something has to happen at Old Trafford, either a renovation or a new stadium. We are falling behind if we are staying in the same place. We have seen modern stadiums like Tottenham Hotspur Stadium come up. Other stadiums like Bayern Munich's Allianz Arena, Camp Nou [Barcelona] and Bernabeu [Real Madrid] have all been renovated.

"It is going to divide fans for sure. But we traded The Cliff [training ground], which was iconic for United and the Busby Babes, with Carrington. While history is important, it looks like we might have to build a new stadium," he said.

Solskjaer is happy with the arrival of INEOS owner Jim Ratcliffe, who is set to acquire a minority stake in United. Titles, however, will only come as a result of consistent shows on the pitch.

"These are very exciting times with Sir Jim Ratcliffe and INEOS coming in. It has breathed life and belief into the club and supporters. Obviously there needs to be more consistency for a title push.

"The better teams are not as consistent as they were even two years ago. Two or three years back, Manchester City and Liverpool had 100 and 99 points. That is consistency. Now, if you want to get to the top, you need to get 88-90 points per league season."

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Novak Djokovic	36	9,855	19
2	Carlos Alcaraz	20	9,255	18
3	Daniil Medvedev	28	8,765	21
4	Jannik Sinner	22	8,070	21
5	Andrey Rublev	26	5,050	24
6	Alexander Zverev	26	5,030	27
7	Holger Rune	20	3,695	23
8	Hubert Hurkacz	27	3,595	25
9	Taylor Fritz	26	3,150	25
10	Stefanos Tsitsipas	25	3,025	24
11	Alex de Minaur	24	2,970	25
12	Casper Ruud	25	2,965	23
13	Grigor Dimitrov	32	2,905	24
14	Tommy Paul	26	2,255	27
15	Frances Tiafoe	26	2,065	22

Top Indians ▸

Sumit Nagal
Rank 98 ▲ 23 spots

Mukund Sasikumar
Rank 437 ▲ 49 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Iga Swiatek	22	9,770	19
2	Aryna Sabalenka	25	8,905	16
3	Coco Gauff	19	7,200	19
4	Elena Rybakina	24	6,088	18
5	Jessica Pegula	29	5,705	21
6	Ons Jabeur	29	4,183	21
7	Qinwen Zheng	21	3,766	21
8	Marketa Vondrousova	24	3,736	15
9	Maria Sakkari	28	3,630	24
10	Karolina Muchova	27	3,520	14
11	Jelena Ostapenko	26	3,473	23
12	Barbora Krejcikova	28	3,134	21
13	Daria Kasatkina	26	3,063	25
14	Beatriz Haddad Maia	27	2,960	23
15	Liudmila Samsonova	25	2,590	24

Top Indians ▸

Ankita Raina
Rank 224 ▼ 1 spot

Sahaja Yamalapalli
Rank 324 ▲ 12 spots

English Premier League Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Liverpool	24	16	6	2	55	23	32	54
2	Man. City	23	16	4	3	56	25	31	52
3	Arsenal	24	16	4	4	53	22	31	52
4	Tottenham	24	14	5	5	51	36	15	47
5	Aston Villa	24	14	4	6	50	32	18	46
6	Man. United	24	13	2	9	33	33	0	41
7	Newcastle	24	11	3	10	51	39	12	36
8	West Ham	24	10	6	8	36	42	-6	36
9	Brighton	24	9	8	7	43	40	3	35
10	Chelsea	24	10	4	10	41	40	1	34
11	Wolves	24	9	5	10	37	39	-2	32
12	Fulham	24	8	5	11	33	39	-6	29
13	Bournemouth	23	7	6	10	31	44	-13	27
14	Brentford	23	7	4	12	34	39	-5	25
15	Crystal Palace	24	6	6	12	27	43	-16	24
16	N. Forest	24	5	6	13	30	44	-14	21
17	Luton Town	23	5	5	13	33	45	-12	20
18	Everton *	24	8	5	11	26	32	-6	19
19	Burnley	24	3	4	17	25	50	-25	13
20	Sheffield	24	3	4	17	22	60	-38	13

Everton deducted 10 points following a breach of the Premier League's Profitability and Sustainability Rules. The decision is currently under appeal

Italian Serie A Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Inter Milan	23	19	3	1	55	12	43	60
2	Juventus	24	16	5	3	36	15	21	53
3	AC Milan	24	16	4	4	47	27	20	52
4	Atalanta	23	13	3	7	44	23	21	42
5	Bologna	24	11	9	4	35	22	13	42
6	Roma	24	11	5	8	42	30	12	38
7	Lazio	23	11	4	8	28	24	4	37
8	Fiorentina	24	11	4	9	36	28	8	37
9	Napoli	23	10	5	8	32	27	5	35
10	Torino	23	8	9	6	21	20	1	33
11	Monza	24	7	9	8	21	28	-7	30
12	Genoa	24	7	8	9	25	30	-5	29
13	Lecce	24	5	9	10	24	37	-13	24
14	Frosinone	24	6	5	13	32	49	-17	23
15	Udinese	24	3	13	8	24	37	-13	22
16	Empoli	24	5	6	13	18	37	-19	21
17	Sassuolo	23	5	5	13	29	42	-13	20
18	Verona	24	4	7	13	21	32	-11	19
19	Cagliari	24	4	6	14	22	45	-23	18
20	Salernitana	24	2	7	15	20	47	-27	13

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Real Madrid	24	19	4	1	52	15	37	61
2	Girona	24	17	5	2	52	29	23	56
3	Barcelona	24	15	6	3	50	33	17	51
4	Atletico Madrid	24	15	3	6	45	26	19	48
5	Athletic Bilbao	24	13	7	4	42	21	21	46
6	Real Betis	24	9	11	4	28	25	3	38
7	Real Sociedad	24	9	10	5	32	22	10	37
8	Las Palmas	24	10	5	9	25	20	5	35
9	Valencia	24	10	5	9	29	29	0	35
10	Getafe	24	8	9	7	32	33	-1	33
11	Osasuna	24	8	5	11	27	36	-9	29
12	Alaves	24	7	6	11	24	31	-7	27
13	Villarreal	24	6	7	11	34	46	-12	25
14	Rayo Vallecano	24	5	9	10	21	32	-11	24
15	Sevilla	24	5	8	11	30	37	-7	23
16	Real Mallorca	24	4	11	9	21	31	-10	23
17	Celta Vigo	24	4	8	12	26	35	-9	20
18	Cadiz	24	2	11	11	15	33	-18	17
19	Granada	24	2	7	15	26	48	-22	13
20	Almeria	24	0	7	17	22	51	-29	7

German Bundesliga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Leverkusen	21	17	4	0	55	14	41	55
2	Bayern	21	16	2	3	59	22	37	50
3	Stuttgart	21	14	1	6	49	27	22	43
4	Dortmund	21	11	7	3	43	26	17	40
5	RB Leipzig	21	11	4	6	46	28	18	37
6	Eint. Frankfurt	21	8	8	5	31	25	6	32
7	SC Freiburg	21	8	4	9	26	37	-11	28
8	Hoffenheim	21	7	6	8	38	40	-2	27
9	Heidenheim	21	7	6	8	30	36	-6	27
10	Werder Bremen	21	7	5	9	30	34	-4	26
11	FC Augsburg	21	5	8	8	31	39	-8	23
12	Wolfsburg	21	6	5	10	25	33	-8	23
13	M'gladbach	21	5	7	9	36	41	-5	22
14	Bochum	21	4	10	7	23	39	-16	22
15	Union Berlin	21	6	3	12	20	35	-15	21
16	Cologne	21	3	7	11	15	35	-20	16
17	Mainz	21	1	9	11	16	35	-19	12
18	SV Darmstadt	21	2	6	13	22	49	-27	12

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Kane Williamson	883	919
2	Steve Smith	818	947
3	Joe Root	797	923
4	Daryl Mitchell	788	804
5	Babar Azam	768	882
6	Usman Khawaja	765	847
7	Virat Kohli	760	937
8	Harry Brook	758	773
9	Dimuth Karunaratne	750	783
10	Marnus Labuschagne	746	937

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Jasprit Bumrah	881	881
2	Kagiso Rabada	842	902
3	R. Ashwin	841	904
4	Pat Cummins	828	914
5	Josh Hazlewood	818	864
6	Prabath Jayasuriya	783	783
7	James Anderson	780	903
8	Kyle Jamieson	751	836
9	Ravindra Jadeja	746	799
9	Nathan Lyon	746	899

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Babar Azam	824	898
2	Shubman Gill	801	847
3	Virat Kohli	768	909
4	Rohit Sharma	746	882
5	Daryl Mitchell	728	750
6	Harry Tector	723	729
6	David Warner	723	869
8	Dawid Malan	707	730
9	Rassie van der Dussen	701	796
10	Heinrich Klaasen	697	757

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Keshav Maharaj	716	741
2	Josh Hazlewood	688	727
3	Adam Zampa	686	695
4	Mohammed Siraj	678	736
5	Jasprit Bumrah	665	838
6	Rashid Khan	654	799
7	Mohammad Nabi	653	657
8	Shaheen Afridi	650	688
9	Kuldeep Yadav	645	760
10	Trent Boult	643	775

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Suryakumar Yadav	861	910
2	Philip Salt	802	802
3	Mohammad Rizwan	800	875
4	Babar Azam	764	896
5	Aiden Markram	755	796
6	Yashasvi Jaiswal	714	739
7	Finn Allen	706	723
8	Rilee Rossouw	689	724
9	Jos Buttler	680	687
10	Reeza Hendricks	660	674

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Adil Rashid	726	746
2	Maheesh Theekshana	679	684
3	Wanindu Hasaranga	676	797
4	Akeal Hosein	664	683
5	Axar Patel	660	667
6	Ravi Bishnoi	659	699
7	Tabraiz Shamsi	654	821
8	Rashid Khan	651	816
9	Mitchell Santner	650	724
10	Reece Topley	643	662

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Over 1,000 industrialists get notices for failing to fulfil project obligations

In Bengaluru city alone, 43 IT sector and 14 hardware sector industrialists have violated lease terms for 58 acres of land

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) has initiated stringent actions against numerous industrialists across the State for failing to fulfil project obligations on government-allotted land. The department issued notices to a total of 1,061 industrialists from all 30 districts of Karnataka throughout January, signalling an effort to ensure adherence to the Board's terms.

Over the past decade, 1,061 industrialists from across the the State and Bengaluru have failed to complete construction projects.
FILE PHOTO

Land unutilised

Under the terms set by KIADB, industrialists who were granted land leases for 10 years must complete project within five years of acquiring the lease. However, over the past decade, 1,061 industrialists from across the the State and Bengaluru have failed to complete construction projects, leaving a total of 7,002.93 acres of government land unutilised.

The provision for land allocation aims to bolster Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and large industries to stimulate employment opportunities.

However, amidst the pandemic, many small and medium-scale industries are facing financial challenges, hampering their ability to invest and meet project deadlines, according to a KIADB official.

Mahesh M., Chief Executive Officer of KIADB, emphasised the Board's commitment to reclaiming unused land, stating that 931.78 acres have already been recovered from 40 industrialists in recent months.

He said that industrialists failing to meet construction deadlines will be served notices, and efforts are underway to reclaim a total of 7,002 acres of government land.

The leasing procedure outlined by KIADB necessitates a 30% deposit upon land allocation, and remaining amount should be paid within three months. Industrialists failing to adhere to construction deadlines face a series of notices under the KIADB Act, culminating in the termination of lease agreements.

Notices have been issued across various sectors, including IT, hardware, manufacturing, and food parks.

In Bengaluru city alone, 43 IT sector and 14 hardware sector industrialists have violated lease terms for 58 acres of land. Similar notices have been served in other districts.

Two more KFD cases reported in State

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Two more cases of KFD were reported in Karnataka on Friday. One each was reported from Shivamogga and Chikkamagaluru districts. With that, the total number of cases reported in the State since January 1 has increased to 99. Of the infected, 70 people have been discharged and 27 are under treatment.As of Friday, the total number of cases in Shivamogga district increased to 35.

Mullayyanagiri may be declared plastic-free zone

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Chikkamagaluru Deputy Commissioner Meena Nagaraj has proposed to declare Mullayyanagiri hill station, a popular tourist destination in Chikkamagaluru taluk, a plastic-free zone, with effect from March. The officer has invited suggestions from the public on this move. Those interested can submit their suggestions before February 29.

In a public announcement, released to the media on Friday, February 16, the DC said the hill station in Chikkamgaluru is part of the Western Ghats, the source of many rivers, including the Cauvery, Kabini, Hemavathi, Tunga, and Bhadra. Mullayyanagiri had been part of the Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary. And, Hirekolale Lake, which had been providing drinking water for Chikkamagaluru, was located on the foothills of Mullayyanagiri. The place had been attracting hundreds of tourists, trekkers every week. During the weekend, the number of visitors will be high. "The district administration has noticed visitors throwing plastic bottles, utensils in the hill stations. Considering the safety of the people depending on the water bodies in the hill stations and biodiversity, the district administration has proposed to ban them in the area," she said.

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(State University of Government of Karnataka Established as per the VTU Act, 1994)
Jnana Sangama', Belagavi - 590 018, Karnataka State

Phone:(0831) 2405468 Fax:(0831)5405467

Ref.No.VTU/PS/2023-24/6367 Date:15.02.2024

NOTIFICATION

Sub: Twenty-third Annual Convocation (Part-II) to award Post Graduate and Research Degrees of VTU – reg.

******

It is hereby informed that **the Twenty-third Annual Convocation (Part-II) to award Post Graduate and Research Degrees of VTU, is scheduled to be held on Thursday, 7th March 2024, at 11-30 a.m., in the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Auditorium, "Jnana Sangama" Campus of VTU, Belagavi**. The awardees of the above degree are hereby cordially invited to attend the Convocation.

In this Convocation Ceremony, the Degrees will be awarded only to the Gold Medalists and Rank Holders of 2022-2023 batch of Post Graduate Programmes and to the candidates eligible for the award of Ph.D. Degree.

All the candidates are required to note the following:

The candidates shall :

* Be present in the Auditorium with neat white dress as mentioned in the University Website
* Occupy the seats in the Auditorium at least half an hour earlier to the commencement of Convocation Ceremony
* Not to attend the Convocation Ceremony if they have any symptoms of fever / cold / cough
* Standup when the Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka the Chancellor and other dignitaries enters the hall and remain so until they occupy the chairs
* Maintain silence and discipline throughout the Ceremony
* Switch off mobile phone in the premises
* Not to leave their position till the dignitaries leaves the hall after the Ceremony is over
* Follow the instructions issued by the Registrar(Evaluation) regarding Registration and other protocols of Convocation

Other candidates, who wish to collect the Degree Certificates personally, can collect the same from the Office of the Registrar (Evaluation) the next working day, on **Saturday 9th March 2024**, during the office hours on producing valid identity card issued by the college. The certificates of the rest of the candidates will be sent to the concerned colleges after the Convocation.

By order
(**Dr. B. E. Rangaswamy**)
Registrar

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‘Our eight golds were great but who saw them happen?’

Former India hockey coach Harendra Singh talks about how a lack of documentation has hurt the game in the country, what the solution is, why the women fell short at the Olympic Qualifiers, how his American experience is shaping him and whether he will return at some stage

HOCKEY INDIA

The solution is not with the national team, you need to find it at the domestic level with Indian coaches taking modern learning to the grassroots

INTERVIEW

Harendra Singh

Uthra Ganesan

Three years ago, Harendra Singh made a life-changing decision. The former India coach, one among a handful of certified master coaches in world hockey, decided he had had enough of playing second fiddle to foreign appointees at home and moved to the United States of America.

As the USA men’s chief coach, Harendra readily agreed to help the women’s team. Its success at the recent Olympic Qualifiers owed a lot to his inputs. Back in the country for the FIH Pro League, Harendra spoke candidly to *The Hindu* on a range of subjects. Excerpts:

Three years in professional American sport, how has the experience been?

My experience in India was hands-on. All my practical and theoretical knowledge was self-generated – why my teams succeeded or failed and how to convert the failures to success. Unfortunately, it began and ended with me. There is no documentation of anything in India.

We are only depending on a player’s natural aptitude. In the use of technology and research, we are far behind. We have the potential to be in the top five at any major event, including the Olympics, but not without the back-room work.

This has been my biggest learning experience in the USA. There is proper documentation at every step. Let me give an example. If I need to know about a particular player, I have everything in front of me – what his speed is, whether he is injury prone, his physiology, what needs to be done, how it is to be done, who will work on what aspect. This is a big reason for the USA being on top in terms of golds at every Olympics.

How would you compare it to coaching in India?

In the use of science we are far behind although I believe, from my experience, that Hockey India and our players are still way ahead of all other Olympic sports and, in some areas, even the BCCI. But that is limited to the top. Across the country, players still don’t know about biomechanics, physiology, periodisation (a cyclical method of training through the year, divided into phases focusing on different goals), tempering or transition period. Which is why our players take time to adapt when they come into the national set-up. A player is the most important person for a team to succeed and if you don’t discuss all this with him he cannot perform. You need to give him a specific deliverable and a pathway to reach there.

Craig [Fulton] is a good coach... but the [men’s] team remains unpredictable. When they maintain their structure, they are brilliant and unbeatable

How do you see the Indian team’s development and the road ahead?

This team has given good results between 2016 and the Tokyo Olympics. We are on top in Asia and at least for the next five years, I don’t see any team challenging it. Having said that, top-level hockey is now limited to India, Australia and four Euro teams – Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, England – with Argentina as an outlier. Against these, we have a lot of work to do.

Craig [Fulton] is a good coach and is doing well but the team remains unpredictable. Who makes what decision on the field at what moment is still not certain, there is a fragility in mind that mirrors on field. When they maintain their structure, they are brilliant and unbeatable. Talent-wise, there is depth for now. But I am sceptical about the future groups for the ’28, ’32, ’36 Olympics, I cannot see those players at the moment.

What is the solution?

The solution is not with the national team, you need to find it at the domestic level with Indian coaches taking modern learning to the grassroots. Skill is just one part, there are other subjects – nutrition, biomechanics, physiology, mental health, injury prevention, strength & conditioning – I don’t think there is a single coach in India willing or able to discuss these topics.

It is time for the government, the federation and the IOA to be on a single platform and use it to provide facilities and create a pathway for players and coaches. If we are bidding for the 2036 Olympics, this is the right time to bring in radical changes.

Germany coach Valentin Altenburg spoke about legacy inspiring confidence. We have a hockey legacy bigger than anyone else but that hasn’t translated into results.

Altenburg has been part of a legacy-creating team at Rio so he knows what he is saying. But I believe any team can create a legacy when you work on three things – passing, receiving and tackling. If these are good in your players, the confidence level automatically goes up.

We talk about legacy but it is useful when you learn from the past. I suggest ‘Legacy’ by James Kerr on the NZ rugby team to understand the actual idea of legacy. Our eight golds were great but who saw them happen? If I have to use that to teach the Indian team, how do I explain or show them practically? Again, no data, no video to make them believe and continue the legacy.

Is it disappointing to see the women’s team not qualify for the Olympics? And is there a conflict when the USA plays India?

Of course you feel bad when your country, where you have worked for 25 years, doesn’t qualify. But I also felt good for the USA. They had missed out on Tokyo after losing to India and there was a desire to change that. Credit to the federation and especially coach David Passmore.

But I still think the Indian women’s team deserved to be in the Olympics and has a better chance of winning medals compared to men. When I took charge of the women’s team, I had only one regret – coming in so late. All credit to coach Baldev Singh who pestered me for almost five years but I did not take him seriously. But when I took charge, I realised the satisfaction a coach feels in actually developing players is with the women’s team. If you demand something, they deliver. In speed we are level with the top teams, strength is less, yes, but that is made up for in agility. Our girls are emotional but we need to make it their strength, not weakness.

Can you list a few specific reasons for the women’s team’s failure?

One, coaches have ignored the drag-flick and continue to do so. If the men are today among the top teams, a big reason is Harmanpreet and there is a big group as back-up. Two, the inability to be present in the moment inside the attacking 25-yard circle and allowing too much space to the opponents inside that zone defensively is a big concern.

Finally, can we see you back in India as a coach?

Coaches are professionals, no doors are ever permanently closed or opened. It all depends on demand and supply from both ends. For now, I am very happy working with USA Hockey. I don’t know if I have been successful in giving something but I know there was a big chunk missing from my coaching life and here I have got a lot – enough for the FIH to include me in the panel of the world’s top seven coaches. So it’s good.

GAME THEORY

Owning the under-19 stage — and stepping up thereafter

Australia recently won its fourth Under-19 Cricket World Cup title, which is second only to the team it beat in the final. It was the fourth time India finished runner-up, again the most for any country in the event. Both teams, however, rank in the bottom three in terms of the percentage of players who have appeared at the Under-19 World Cup and also earned a senior international cap

MOST SUCCESSFUL TEAMS AT THE U19 WORLD CUP

Team	Appearances	Titles
India	15	5 (2000, 2008, 2012, 2018, 2022)
Australia	14	4 (1988, 2002, 2010, 2024)
Pakistan	15	2 (2004, 2006)
Bangladesh	14	1 (2020)
South Africa	14	1 (2014)
West Indies	15	1 (2016)
England	15	1 (1998)

SOURCE: ICC

PERCENT OF U19 WORLD CUP PLAYERS WHO EARNED SENIOR INTERNATIONAL CAPS

Team	Percentage
Bangladesh	41%
Afghanistan	38%
West Indies	36%
Zimbabwe	34%
Pakistan	33%
Sri Lanka	33%
New Zealand	32%
Ireland	31%
England	28%
India	27%
Australia	20%
South Africa	18%

PICTURE THIS

GETTY IMAGES

Cruise control

Kristof Rasovszky was in prime form at the Doha 2024 World Aquatics Championships, beating all comers — humans and seemingly even the odd floating vessel — to claim the 10km open water gold.

The Hungarian won in 1 hour, 48 minutes and 21 seconds to earn his first gold at the distance in an international event, underlining his credentials ahead of the Paris Games.

The choppy conditions — 4.8 kmph winds whipped the cool water at Doha Port — played in the favour of Rasovszky, whose stroke worked with the waves.

Leading for most of the race, the Olympic silver medallist held off a spirited comeback by Frenchman Marc-Antoine Olivier. Great Britain’s Hector Pardoe took bronze.

Open water events form a part of the marathon swimming discipline, which severely tests physical strength, endurance and strategic thinking.

Tides, surface currents, and wind-chop are variables that change quickly at sea, forcing athletes to adapt and manage their energy over the race.

Marathon swimming was added to the Olympic programme in 2008, with the 10km race introduced in Beijing.

Smiles of Success

JEE Main 2024 (Session-1) Champions

6 Students Score Overall 100 Percentile

Overall 100 Percentile **Meet V. Parekh** Classroom Course

Overall 100 Percentile **Aaditya Kumar** Classroom Course

Overall 100 Percentile **Dakshesh Mishra** Classroom Course

Overall 100 Percentile **Himanshu** Classroom Course

Overall 100 Percentile **Nilkrishna** Classroom Course

Overall 100 Percentile **Ishaan Gupta** Classroom Course

ALL INDIA GIRL TOPPER

Dwija D. Patel Classroom Course

Amar Sinha Classroom Course

Anirudh Kant Garg Classroom Course

Jithin Joshi Classroom Course

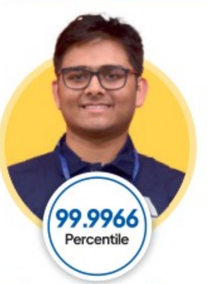
Krish Classroom Course

Muhammed Sufiyan Classroom Course

Palaksh Goyal Classroom Course

Rhythm Kedia Classroom Course

Our top performers from Online Program



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Punit Chaudhari Online Test Series

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197 Students Score **100 %ile** in Physics | **72** Students Score **100 %ile** in Chemistry | **70** Students Score **100 %ile** in Maths | **57** Students Score Overall **99.99 %ile** & Above | **377** Students Score Overall **99.9 %ile** & Above | **2882** Students Score Overall **99 %ile** & Above

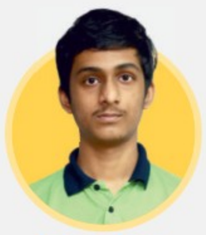
ALLEN Bengaluru Success Journey Continues

Abhinav P J
Bengaluru Classroom
99.9966033%ile

Aditya Ramesh
Bengaluru Classroom
99.9957619%ile

Madhav Arun K
Bengaluru Classroom
99.9935099%ile

Sainavaneet M
Classroom Course
99.9889608%ile



Varanasi K S
Classroom Course
99.9839386%ile

Raghav Iyengar
Classroom Course
99.9802311%ile

Vibhor Jain
Classroom Course
99.9802311%ile

Sagar V
Classroom Course
99.9802311%ile

Anshul Goyal
Classroom Course
99.9796199%ile

Dhanunjay C
Classroom Course
99.9776097%ile

Akaanksh M A
Classroom Course
99.9701352%ile

✓ **17** Students Scored 100%ile in Physics | ✓ **07** Students Scored 100%ile in Chemistry | ✓ **05** Students Scored 100%ile in Maths

Authenticity of Result: Power of ALLEN

Marks calculated based on NTA final answer key & student's recorded response released by NTA as per result compiled till 14 Feb. 2024 (08:00 PM), JEE MAIN Session-1

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Traffic police track accused through his yellow T-shirt

Around 70 CCTV camera footage was analysed before the accused was caught

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Basavanagudi traffic police managed to crack a hit-and-run case and arrested a 25-year-old salesman of a khadi store through the colour of the T-shirt he was wearing at the time of the accident.

According to the police, the accused Venu Shankarappa was rashly riding a motorcycle and collided with an autorickshaw driver in Gavipuram extension in Hanumanthanagar in the wee hours of February 12.

The accused sped away after the victim, identified as Ramesh, 48, was killed on the spot.

The Basavanagudi traffic police conducted a spot inspection and gathered CCTV camera footage from near the accident spot and found that the accused was wearing a yellow T-shirt. Armed with the piece of evidence, the police analysed around 70 CCTV camera footage along the direction in which the accused had sped away before zeroing in on Venu Shankarappa two days later. The police said the accused confessed that he was hurrying home when the incident occurred.

He was booked under hit- and -run charges along with rash and negligent driving and death due to negligence, Shiva Prakash Devaraju, Deputy Commissioner of Police, South, Traffic, said.

Dusty ride

Vehicles passing through a cloud of dusty and incomplete Vishnuvardhan road, connecting Kengeri and Uttarahalli in Bengaluru. The road was taken up for widening by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike in 2021. K. MURALI KUMAR

DRI officials bust drug racket, recover cocaine capsules worth ₹9.2 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Officials of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence busted another drug smuggling racket and arrested a 40-year-old Venezuela national allegedly trying to smuggle cocaine to Delhi worth ₹9.2 crore.

The accused was caught as soon as he landed at the Bengaluru airport from Dubai. The officials intercepted him based on profile screening and found that he had consumed cocaine capsules . The officials with the medical help ejected the capsules and took him into custody for further investigation.

A preliminary probe revealed that the accused was heading to Delhi with the consignment to hand it over to his contact who are suspected to be part of the international drug racket .

Meanwhile, CCB officials on Friday arrested a foreign national and recovered synthetic drugs worth ₹83.4 lakh. The accused was allegedly caught red-handed while trying to sell the drugs in Varthur police station limits. Inquiries revealed that the accused had come to Bengaluru in 2018 on a student visa later and started peddling drugs. He was also involved in a murder case of a woman reported in Hennur police station limits in 2019, said the police.

Car driver of businesswoman among five arrested for faking kidnapping

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 34-year-old car driver of a businesswoman and his four associates, including two rowdy sheeters, have been arrested for faking his own kidnap to extort ₹1 crore from his employer .

The police cracked the case within 24 hours and arrested the car driver, Hemanth Kumar, 34, along with his associates from a farmhouse in Doddaballapura where the accused were found plotting the drama.

The other accused have been identified as Srinivasa, 40, Mohan, 39, both rowdy -sheeters in Malleshwaram having multiple criminal cases pending against them, along with their associates Tejas, 25, and Kuldeep, 28.

The police cracked the case within 24 hours and arrested the car driver, along with his associates from a farmhouse where they were plotting the drama

According to the police, Hemanth Kumar was a distant relative of Lakshmi, a businesswoman running a serial production house and a resident of Mahalakshmi Layout.

Lakshmi had borrowed a home loan of ₹1 crore and Hemanth Kumar wanted to get the money somehow. He hatched a plan to get kidnapped and take the money as ransom.

As per the plan, he roped in his associates and went to Mysuru on the pretext of attending some work on February 13 and switched off his phone. Lakshmi tried to call Hemanth, but he was not reachable for the entire day.

The next day, Hemanth called Lakshmi and started crying stating that some unknown men had kidnapped him and were taking him around in a vehicle demanding a ransom of ₹ 1 crore.

He also informed Lakshmi that he would be killed if the money is not paid and warned her not to inform the police.

Lakshmi rushed to the police station and filed a complaint.

The police swung into action and analysed the call record details and CCTV camera footage to track down the accused to a farmhouse. The police rescued Hemanth Kumar and arrested the accused. A detailed questioning with the accused exposed the plot, shocking both the police and Lakshmi.

Hemanth told the police that he was in dire need of money and knew about Lakshmi having cash at home and wanted to get the money.

Gang of women arrested for stealing mobile phones in crowded buses

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Mahadevapura police busted a gang of mobile thieves, including five women, who travelled in crowded buses to divert the attention of passengers and steal their mobile phones.

Close watch

Based on a mobile theft complaint, the police kept a close watch on crowded buses and arrested the accused, identified as Radha, Rashi, Nandini, Shankaramma, and Shanthamma, and recovered 120 mobile phones worth ₹30 lakh from them.

The accused stayed in a rented house and moved around crowded buses in groups to steal phones. The accused would sell the stolen phones to their contact in Andhra Pradesh who would visit the city once in a fortnight to collect the goods in bulk.

The accused would sell the phones at throwaway prices ranging from ₹2,000 to ₹3,000 a piece and share the profits among themselves.

The gang was operating in the city for quite some time and suspected to have stolen many more phones . The police have requested people to contact the Whitefield division police if they have lost phones while travelling in buses.

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SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through e-Procurement Portal only)

RPCL invites tender through e-procurement portal website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from the contractor/agencies that are reputed individuals/ Company and having past experience for the following works: **1) KPCL/2023-24/PM/WORK_INDENT1036/CALL-3 Date: 10.02.2024** for Supply, Erection, Testing, Commissioning of CNC Turning Centre Lathe Machine at YTPS. Tender amount: **Rs.94,70,562/-**. EMD: **Rs.1,90,000/-**. Last date for submission of tender: **19.02.2024 at 16.00 Hrs.**
2) KPCL/2023-24/PM/WORK_INDENT1130/CALL-2 Date: 12.02.2024 for Adopting reverse engineering Process using 3D Scanner machines and Development of IDCT and Compressor spare parts manufacturing drawings. Last date for receipt of tender: **29.02.2024 at 16.00 Hrs.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the **Executive Engineer (M-1),** RPCL, YTPS, Yermarus - 584134. Raichur Dist. Mobile: 94486 49093/ 94806 82893. E-mail: eem3rpcl@gmail.com

KARNATAKA NEERAVRI NIGAM LIMITED
A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the, Executive Engineer, KNNL,
TLBC Division No. 3, Sindhanur-584128.
No: KNNL/EE-3/TS/SR/Tender Notification/2023-24/1492Date: 07.02.2024.

TENDER NOTIFICATION (CALL-4)
(Through e-procurement only)

Tender in electronic mode on Item Rate basis are invited from the eligible Contractors /firm/ company enlisted under KPWD Class-1of Karnataka state who fulfill the given conditions, for the work of Improvements to Service roads (In selected Reaches of TLBC) (Indent No.: KNNL/2023-24/ RD/WORK_INDENT555). The tender shall be offered through e-procurement system only and will be in two cover system. Last date for submission of tender through electronic tender is Dated: 29.02.2024 up to 4.00 PM. The amount put to tender is Rs. 847.49 Lakhs and EMD Rs. 12,71,300/-.The tender conditions and other information can be obtained from this office during office hours or through website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home

SD/- Executive Engineer,
KNNL, TLBC Division No.3,
Sindhanur-584128.
DIP/RCR/501/KSMC&A/498/2023-24

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Raichur Thermal Power Station)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Tenders are invited from eligible Contractors / Agencies through KPP portal for the work of **1) KPCL/2023-24/EL/WORK_INDENT939 Date:01.12.2023:**Complete, Overhauling and Replacement of shaft of 1300kW, 6.6kV, 1490 RPM BHEL Make PA Fan Rotor. **EMD :** Rs. 29,110/- **2) KPCL/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT1223 Date: 14.02.2024:** Providing Painting & minor repairs to OHTs (2 Nos.) Near Unit - 1 ESP & Near Unit 5 & 6 Chimney and to Unit-8 ESP Control Room at RTPS. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 19.68 Lakhs.** Work Completion period: **3 Months**. **3) KPCL/2023-24/PM/WORK_INDENT1238 Date: Date: 14.02.2024:** Repair and Reconditioning of variable displacement axial piston hydraulic pump for stacker reclaimer-2 of CHP2/RTPS. **EMD :** Rs. 19650/- Last date for online submission of tenders : *(For Sl. No. 1)* : **21.02.2024 upto 16:30 Hrs.** *(For Sl. No. 3)* : **22.02.2024 upto 14:00 Hrs.** Interested bidders may submit the bids through e-Tendering website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Further details can be had from office of the Executive Engineer (HT-2), Mobile: 9449596528 / Executive Engineer (PCM-2), Mobile: 9449596582 / Executive Engineer (CHP) M-2, Mobile: 9448290758, RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar-584170, Raichur District, Karnataka State.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: CEE/TZM/SEE(O)/AEE-1/2023-24/12945-47 Date: 15.02.2024

Tender Notification (Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites bids against Enquiry **No: KPTCL/CEE/TZ/MYS/SEE(O)/AEE-1/2023-24/LINE-TB/372, Dated: 08.02.2024** for "Stringing of 66 KV **2nd Circuit** on existing 66 KV DC towers of **66 KV Chamarajanagara - Honnahalli SC line** for a distance of about **16.7 Kms** to 66/11kV Honnahalli sub station in Ch.Nagara Taluk & District along with Providing 1 Nos of 66 kV Terminal Bay (TB) at existing 220/66/11kV Chamarajanagara RS and 01 Nos of 66kV Terminal bay (TB) at Honnahalli 66/11kV Substation in Ch.Nagara Taluk & District on Total Turn Key (TTK) Basis".

The tender for the above work is invited through KPPP mode.The detailed notification regarding above said enquiry in the KPPP process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyper link **"E Procurement KPTCL"** OR **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **19.02.2024**. Any other details can be had from the Office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer Electy., Transmission Zone,
KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana, F.T.S. compound,
N.R. Mohalla, Mysuru-570007.

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL,
IBC O&M Division, Rampur(PA). Tq:Sindagi, Dist:Vijayapur.
Ph.No:08488-224328, Email: kbjnleerampur@gmail.com
No: KBJNL/IBC/PB/Tender/outsource/2023-24/1618 Dated:14.02.2024

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, IBC O&M.Division Rampur (PA) Tq: Sindgi, invites the Lumpsum e-tender from Valid Labour RegisteredFirms/Establishment for 1) Deployment of Outsource staff in CE office, SE office, and Sub divisions under Rampur Division(INo- SE0036), amounting to **Rs: 8.18 Lakhs**. with an EMD of Rs: **19323-00.** 2) Deployment of Outsource staff in CE office, SE office, Rampur Division and Sub divisions under Rampur Division(INo-SE0039), amounting to Rs: **51.35 Lakhs**. with an EMD of Rs: **90895-00**. The tenderers are required to submit their tenders in One &Two cover sytem.
1) (The blank tenders can be obtained through website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and can be submitted through electronic tender box). 2) The Contractor can have access to e-tender documents from **16.02.2024** to **23.02.2024** up to 4.00 PM 3) Submission of completed e-tender document will be upto **23.02.2024** upto 4.00 PM. 4) Opening of e-tender bids i.e, **Cover –I (Technical bid)** will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL. IBC.O&M. Divn.Rampur on **26.02.2024 at 4.00** PM. In respect of bidders whose e-EMD has been confirmed on the e-tendering platform. 5) **Cover–II (Financial bid)** of qualified bidder will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer,KBJNL.IBC.O&M.Divn.Rampur PA on **29.02.2024** at 11.00 AM.6) Further any information can be had from the undersigned during office hours Ph.08422-282227.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KBJNL, IBC O&M Division, Rampur(PA)
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/470/ಕೆಎಸ್ ಎಂಸಿಎ/2023–24

Ministry of Communications, Department of Posts, Civil Wing
PRESS NOTICE INVITING PERCENTAGE RATE e-TENDER

Executive Engineer(C), Postal Civil Division, Bengaluru, invites on behalf of the President of India, online percentage rate tenders for the following work:
N.I.T. No. : **48/PCD/BGL/2023-24.**
Name of Work : **Providing new compound wall by replacing old damaged compound wall for part portion from existing compound wall & repairs to part portion of existing compound wall at DU Layout Postal Staff Quarters, Davangere under Davangere Division.**
Estimated Cost : **Rs. 25,82,427-**
Earnest Money : **Rs. 51,649/-**
Period of completion : **04 Months.**
Last time and date of submission of bid: **26.02.2024 upto 15.00hrs**
The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.**

--Sd--
Executive Engineer(C)
Postal Civil Division, Bangalore- 560032.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
VIJAYANAGAR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, BALLARI.
Cantonment Area, Director:8147796529, PA: 8147796539,
e-mail : vimsballaridirector@karnataka.gov.in ,
e-mail :directorvimsballari@gmail.com
website: www.vims.karnataka.gov.in
NO.VIMS/SUP/TEND/DXRF/10/2023-24 DATED:14.02.2024

RE e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from the eligible Bidders for Supply of Digital X-ray Films to Medical College Hospital, VIMS, Ballari on Rate Contract for a period of **One year**under Two bid system through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** of Government of Karnataka as per the KTPP Act-1999-2000. The interested Bidders are request to submit Tender in above said e-portal on are before **21.02.024 @5.00PM**. The total approximate cost of tender is **Rs.179.52Lakhs**. Further details may be obtained in the above said website and **www.vims.karnataka.gov.in**.

Sd/- Director, VIMS, Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/854/KSMCA/2023-24

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT DIVISION, BELAGAVI.
PH NO.0831-2463850 / FAX NO.0831-2423008
No.EE /MI&GWDDD/BGM/TND/AE-1/JE/2023-24/711 Date:13.02.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (KW-3&4)

As per KTTP Act-2000 and recent Amendments the Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department Division Belagavi has invited the Item rate tender through KPPP (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). Total 15 Nos. of Athani/Gokak/Belagavi Sub Divisions Estimate Amount Highest Rs.245.00 Lakhs & Lowest Rs.70.00 Lakh. 1. Pre bid meeting date: 21-02-2024 at Morning 11.00 AM, 2. Tender Receipt Last Date: 22-02-2024 Evening 4.00 PM, 3. Tender Opening Date: 23-02-2024 Evening 4.30 PM (if possible), 4. For Tender Details office address: Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department Division Belagavi & www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
M.I & GWDD Division, Belagavi.
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1150/KSMCA/2023-24

School row: Parents meet Mangaluru police chief

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Parents of Class VII students of St. Gerosa English Higher Primary School, Jeppu, met Police Commissioner Anupam Agrawal and Deputy Commissioner M.P. Mullai Muhilan here on Friday and urged them to register the complaint filed by them against the English teacher of the school, Sister Prabha, whom they have accused of hurting religious feelings of students in the classroom.

The school on Thursday denied the charge and said the teacher did not make any deregatory remarks about Hindu religion.

The parents said they had given the complaint to Mangaluru City South police station on February 11 accusing the teacher of hurting the religious feelings of their children while teaching the poem 'Work Is Worship' by Rabindranath Tagore. It is nearly a week and the police are yet to inquire into the matter and register the complaint, they said.

Mr. Agrawal said action on the complaint by parents would be taken after the police get the report of the Deputy Director of Public Instruction (DDPI), who is inquiring into the allegations.

Taking to reporters later, the parents said their wards were being targeted for speaking against the teacher.

"Our children are being singled out and harassed," a parent alleged.

Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department
Office of The Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department, Chickballapur Division, Chickballapur. Phone: 08156-270058
E-mail ID: eerdwsd.ckb2@gmail.com
EE:RDW&SD:CBP:AE-1: 2023-24 DATE: 12.02.2024

Tender notification No. 1,2,4,6,8,9,10,11,13,18,28,20,32/ Call 1, Call-2, Call-3, Call-4 Call-5, Call 6&7 /2023-24. Date:12.02.2024

Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Chickballapur, On behalf of Governor of Karnataka Invites request for proposal of tenders from the eligible bidders for the work of Providing FHTC"S to **37** Villages in Shidlaghatta Taluk-1 Village, Bagepalli Taluk 18 Villages, Gudibande Taluk **7** Villages, 10 Villages in Chintamani, 1 Villages in Chickballapur Taluk in Chickballapur District. One &Two Cover tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTPP act shall be followed. The tenderers are required to submit **(Under KW-I KW-II KW-III & KW-IV)** tenders through KPPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ (1)** Last Date & Time for Queries **:17.02.2024, Time : 5.30 PM. (2)** Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids**: 19.02.2024 ,Time : 5.30PM (3)** Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening **: 21.02.2024, Time: 11.00 AM. (4)**Date & Time of Financial Bid Opening: **23.02.2024, Time: 11.00AM.** More details can be had from the office of the undersigned and also through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** by clicking List of Tenders which will link to all Dept. works list.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department,
Chickballapur
DIPR/CHIKKABALLAPUR/RO:263/KSMCA/2023-24

BWSSB to operationalise Cauvery phase – 5

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

It was mentioned in the Budget that in May 2024, BWSSB will operationalise the Cauvery Phase-5 project of 775 MLD capacity to provide 110 litres of drinking water to 12 lakh people every day at a cost of ₹5,550 crore.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, FEB. 17		
RISE	06:41	SET 18:26
RISE	12:22	SET 00:44
SUNDAY, FEB. 18		
RISE	06:41	SET 18:26
RISE	13:15	SET 01:42
MONDAY, FEB. 19		
RISE	06:41	SET 18:26
RISE	14:09	SET 02:39

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	22
Mysuru	33	21
Bengaluru	31	19

Bengaluru Today
32°C A dry weather to prevail. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be little warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night will be slight cool and hazy.

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THE HINDU
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Three new schemes to boost start-up ecosystem announced

Karnataka recently emerged as one of the best-performing States in the start-up ranking by the Department for Promotion Industry and Internal Trade. However, there was a considerable drop in funding in 2023

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, in his Budget for 2024-25, announced three new programmes aimed to boost the start-up ecosystem in the State.

The new programmes include the Rajiv Gandhi Entrepreneurship Programme – an early-stage funding programme to promote innovative endeavours and start-ups by students and entrepreneurs, a new initiative to support early-stage women entrepreneurs with a sector-wise and targeted approach, and a programme to promote agri-start-ups in the State.

Under the agri-start-up programme, five acres of land will be provided to C-CAMP Agri Innovation Park.

Under the agri-start-up programme, five acres of land will be provided to C-CAMP Agri Innovation Park.

Centre of excellence
The government has also proposed to set aside ₹10 crore to establish a centre of excellence in fintech, space tech and automotive tech over five years in collaboration with entrepreneurs and educational institutions.

Karnataka recently emerged as one of the best-performing States in the start-up ranking by the Department for Promotion Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). However, the State, which is home to 18,000 start-ups, saw a considerable drop in start-up funding in 2023, mostly owing to the macro-economic trends.

The Minister also announced plans to introduce a new GCC (Global Capacity Centres) policy in the current year to attract higher investments in major sectors. Bengaluru currently has more than 400 GCCs. The other announcements included the establishment of skilling and innovation centres in Kalaburagi, Shivamogga, Hubbali, and Tumakuru, and an institute of advanced genome editing and gene therapy.

Job generation
The State is also planning to launch an AVGC-XR Policy 3.0 for the period 2024-29 with the aim of generating 30,000 jobs in the animation, visual effects, gaming and comics sectors.

An investment of ₹150 crore is planned towards this.

The Budget had a slew of announcements with the aim of promoting scientific temper among citizens.

This included plans for a science city in Bengaluru in association with the Central government at a cost of ₹233 crore and a month-long Karnataka Science and Technology Festival.

Stipend for ST engineering graduates enrolled in vocational training courses

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With focus on encouraging technical education among the disadvantaged communities, a stipend of ₹15,000 will be provided to 200 Scheduled Tribe (ST) engineering graduates enrolled in six to 12 months' vocational training courses such as Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning etc., in IISc, IITs or NITs, said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday.

In his Budget speech, the Chief Minister said upskilling in drone-based photography and videography has immense potential for employment in social-media, and drone training will be imparted to 5,000 youngsters belonging to Scheduled Tribes. In addition, the food allowance for students of government pre-matric and post-matric hostels, Ashram schools and residential schools under Social Welfare, Scheduled Tribes, Backward classes and Minorities Welfare Departments will be increased by ₹100 per month. Ashram schools functioning under ST Welfare Department will be rechristened as Maharshi Valmiki Adivasi Budakattu Residential Schools.

A total of ₹2,710 crore has been provided for construction of residential schools and hostels of SC/ST/BC and Minority Welfare departments and new residential schools will be started by KREIS in 20 hoblis. Thirty-one post-matric hostels will be started in the current year. As many as 50 Morarji Desai Residential Schools with a capacity of 50 students each and 100 Post-matric boys/girls hostels will be started along with 100 new Maulana Azad Schools.

'Simplified procedure' to obtain unified consent letter from KSPCB

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To promote Ease of Doing Business, the Budget has announced a "simplified procedure" for obtaining a unified consent letter under Water, Air and Environment Protection Act from the KSPCB and a single window mechanism for various permissions and certificates. As many as 17 real time water quality measurement stations and two environment laboratories will be set up by the board, while nine environment laboratories will be upgraded.

On the other hand, ₹10 crore has been provided to strengthen the existing seven elephants, two leopard task forces, and a new task force for Bandipur.

APPOINTMENT

National Projects Construction Corporation Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
#1297 First Floor, 2nd Cross, KHB Colony, Magadi Road,
Bangalore-560 079. Phone: +91 80 23110309

Ref.No.500001/Contract Appointment/ Date:17.02.2024

Recruitment of Sr. Associate (Office Support)-Finance

NPCC Limited, a subsidiary of WAPCOS Ltd. is a Miniratna: Category–I, premier Sched-ule 'B' CPSU. NPCC Ltd. invites talented and dynamic candidates for contractual engagement for 01no. post of Sr. Associate (Office Support)-Finance for its Southern Zonal Office, Bengaluru. Last date to receive applications is 18.03.2024.

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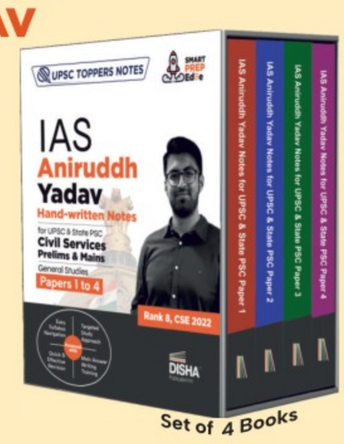

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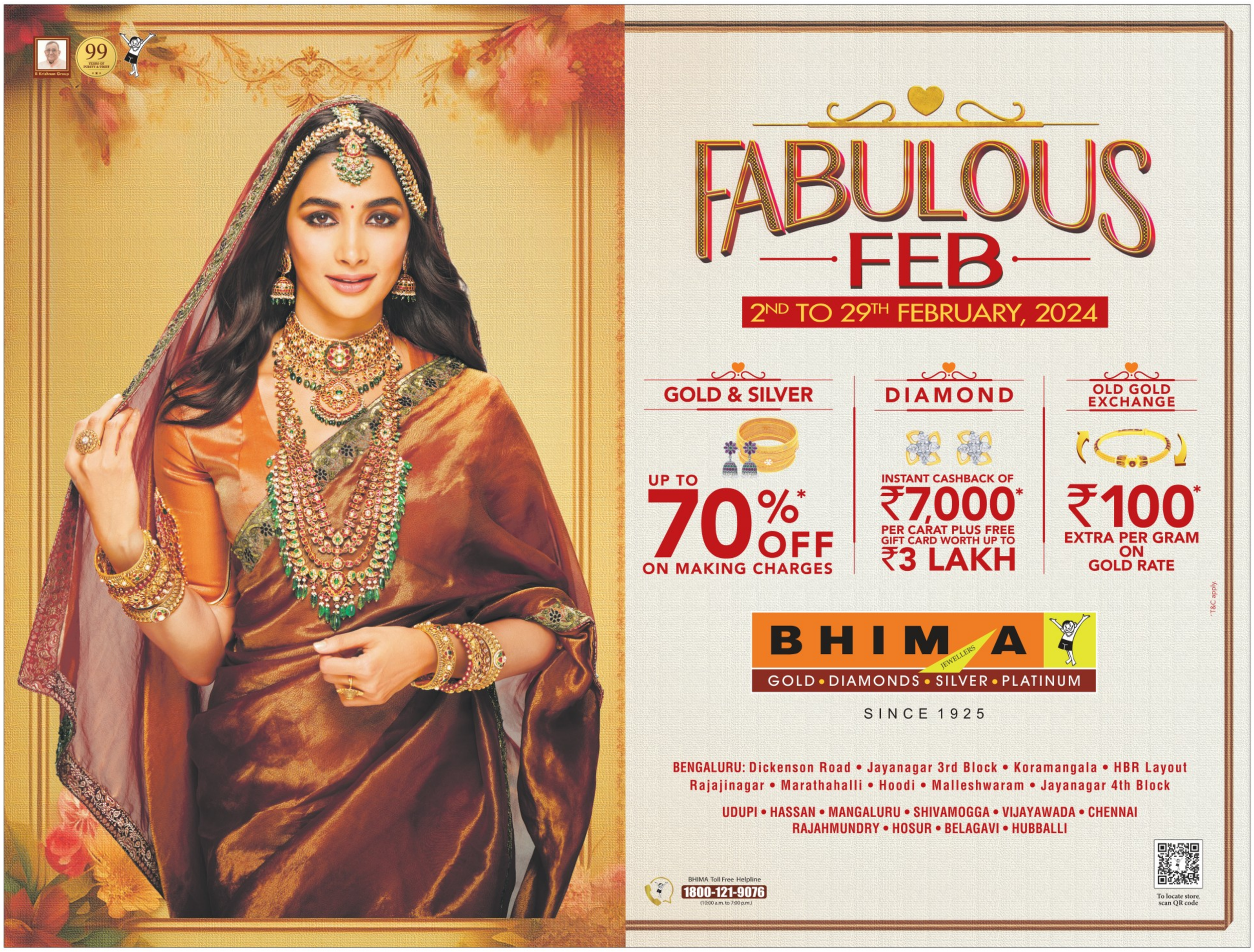
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BBMP's tax collection this fiscal (till date)
₹4,300 crore

The percentage of increase compared to last fiscal
36

Tax collection expectation for 2024-25 fiscal
₹6,000 crore

Expected non-tax revenue after bringing changes to policies
₹2,000

4 integrated waste processing centres to come up

1,134 new electric buses will be introduced

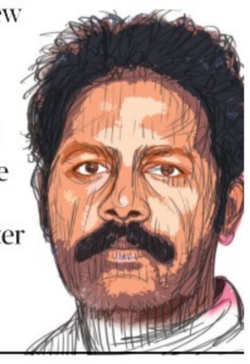
820 BS-6 diesel buses to join the BMTC fleet

"For the first time, the Budget made announcements of programmes for Bengaluru with great foresight. Devanahalli, Nelamangala, Hoskote, Doddaballapur, Magadi, and Bidadi towns will be developed as satellite townships with good connectivity. What more does the city need once it has townships, tunnel road, suburban rail, metro, and Skydeck?

D.K. SHIVAKUMAR,
Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister

"Public transport got a boost with over 2,000 new buses and strong commitment to metro and suburban train timelines. While no new flyovers have been announced, a tunnel has been proposed on 'pilot basis'. BMLTA would have been the right place to decide if such projects are useful. Massive allocation for white-topping of roads raises eyebrows while outer areas continue to suffer.

SRINIVAS ALAVILLI,
Fellow WRI India



SNIPPETS

Information Disorder Tackling Unit to be formed

In collaboration with IT-BT. Department, an Information Disorder Tackling Unit will be formed to take stringent action against those who create insecurity and fear in the society by spreading fake news, it was announced in the budget. A special cell will also be formed and empowered under the Home Department to take suitable legal action against such people.

C.E.N. (Cyber, Economic and Narcotics) Police Stations will be upgraded to strengthen Cybercrime Branch in the State to investigate and take effective action against those who deceive innocent people in the wake of increasing deep fake and other cybercrime cases

1% fire cess for multi-storeyed buildings

The State government is to implement a 1% fire cess on the property tax for recently constructed multistoried buildings. "To increase efficiency in Fire and Emergency Department, 1% fire cess will be levied on property tax of newly constructed multi-storeyed buildings according to the Karnataka Fire Force Act, 1964," Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said in his speech.

Science city and telescopes for schools and colleges

The Budget states that to portray the growth of science and technology and to promote science education, a science city in Bengaluru will be established in association with the Government of India at a total cost of ₹233 crore. In order to generate interest among students in stargazing and astronomy, telescopes will be provided to 833 schools and PU colleges under Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society (KRIES) at a total cost of ₹3 crore.

A Sports City with modern and international standards will also be establishedacross 70 acres in Bengaluru North Taluk, under Public-Private Partnership.

MS building on KSDL campus

The State government has proposed to construct a multistory office complex in Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited(KSDL) premises in Yeswanthpur. In his Budget speech on Friday Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said, "A fully furnished office complex which can host several government departments will be constructed by KSDL, on its land in Yeshwantpur."

Monthly allowance for caregivers

The State Budget has proposed to provide a monthly allowance of ₹ 1,000 to caregivers of persons suffering from Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy, Parkinson's, and Multiple Sclerosis. This is apart from bi-annual cataract surgery camps for senior citizens in all talukas. Four caretaking houses (Anupalana gruhas) will be set up for care and protection of the mentally challenged destitute at a cost of ₹2 crore.

Floriculture market in Bengaluru

The Budget presented by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah noted that floriculture is practiced on 40,000 hectares of land across Karnataka. Hence, to promote the sales and exports of these floricultural crops, a well-equipped commercial floriculture market of international standards will be set up in the capital city of Bengaluru, under Public-Private Partnership.

Govt. proposes to increase BBMP revenue, decongest traffic

The Budget makes a mention of the much-talked-about tunnel road. To check the feasibility, a small tunnel will be built this year at Hebbal junction. The revenue target set for this fiscal is ₹4,790 crore. Last year, the collection was ₹3,155 crore

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The 2024-25 Budget presented on Friday has proposed to substantially step up the revenue of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), besides focusing on decongesting Bengaluru's traffic through the implementation of big-ticket projects. The State government has allocated ₹3,000 crore in the outlay for special infrastructure projects in Bengaluru.

The BBMP has successively failed to tap into the city's fullest revenue potential, which the government has proposed to fix. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah stated that in the next fiscal (2024-25), tax collection is expected to reach ₹6,000 crore.

The Budget said this fiscal, the civic body has collected ₹4,300 crore, which is ₹1,000 crore more than the previous financial year's collection.

The revenue target set for this fiscal is ₹4,790 crore. Last year, the BBMP's collection stood at ₹3,155 crore. The budget has also proposed to mobilise additional non-tax revenue of ₹2,000 crore through a revised advertisement policy and premium floor area ratio (FAR) policy.

The Budget has proposed to mobilise additional non-tax revenue of ₹2,000 crore through a revised advertisement policy and premium floor area ratio policy. FILE PHOTO

Decongesting traffic

The other focus area is traffic management. The budget has proposed the much-talked-about tunnel road. Mr. Siddaramaiah said: "The State government has decided to resolve traffic congestion in the city by constructing underground tunnels." To check the feasibility, a small tunnel will be constructed this year at Hebbal junction, where there is high traffic congestion. However, there is no mention in the budget about the total distance of the tunnel.

The budget has also proposed the commencement of work on the 73 km Bengaluru Business Corridor (BBC), which was earlier known as Peripheral Ring Road (PRR). The cost of the project is estimated at ₹27,000 crore and will be implemented under the Public Private Partnership model. A request for proposal has already been invited for the project, and land has already been acquired.

It is also proposed to build an additional 100 km all-weather road by utilising space available within the canal buffer zone. Under this scheme, a 100 km road is being developed, he said.

The Chief Minister said about ₹1,700 crore has been allocated for the white-topping of several roads in the Central Business District (CBD). The State government will release about ₹900 crore for this, and the BBMP should fund the rest.

Under Sugama Sanchara - Brand Bengaluru, the BBMP is in consultation with an expert committee and based on the committee's report, measures will be taken to ease traffic congestion in the city, he said.

Solar parks

Among the other projects listed was a 250-meter-high sky deck for which internationally renowned architects have been invited to prepare a novel design. But there is no allocation made for the project.

On the other hand, captive solar parks will be established in various institutions under the Urban Development Department, such as BBMP, BMRCL, BWSSB and BDA.

Metro rail to be extended to Tumakuru, Devanahalli

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

The State Budget has outlined plans to expand the Namma Metro to Tumakuru and Devanahalli covering approximately 15 km in north Bengaluru.

"The feasibility report for extending the metro rail from Bangalore International Exhibition Centre to Tumakuru and from Kempegowda International Airport to Devanahalli on a Public-Private Partnership basis will be prepared," Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said in his Budget speech on Friday.

He said over eight lakh people use metro services daily, and by March 2025, an additional 44 km of metro lines will be incorporated, supplementing the existing 74 km.

"The completion of the Outer Ring Road-Airport Road works under Metro Rail project Phase-2 and Phase-2A is expected by June 2026. A draft Detailed Project Report is being prepared for the construction of a Metro line from Sarjapur to Agara, Koramangala, Dairy Circle, and connecting to Hebbal via Mekhri Circle under Namma Metro Phase-3A. The proposal will be submitted for the approval of the Central government" he added.

Meanwhile, Mr. Siddaramaiah announced that the BMTC will add 1,334 new electric buses and 820 BS-6 diesel buses to its fleet in the coming days.

Regarding Bengaluru suburban rail project, he said that the initiative is gaining momentum, with the rapid implementation of civil works for Corridor-2, stretching from Baiyappanahalli to Chikkabanavara.

Srinivas Alavilli, Fellow, WRI India said that public transport got a boost in the budget with new buses and a strong commitment to metro and suburban train timelines.

"This Budget lacks significant measures for addressing transport-related issues, with particular neglect of non-motorised transport. Moreover, it predominantly focuses on high-cost projects without sufficient attention to essential aspects," said Vinay Srinivas, member of the Bangalore Bus Prayanikara Vedike.

Shops, business establishments in city to be open till 1 a.m.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a major boost to business establishments, the State government has extended the deadline for operational hours for shops and business establishments in the city and 10 other corporations in the Budget.

At present, bars, restaurants, pubs, and hotels are operating till 1 a.m. in Bengaluru. This has now been expanded to 10 other corporations, though the Budget has not mentioned the names of other corporations apart from Bengaluru.

The government is also yet to provide clarity on the types of shops and establishments that will be allowed to remain open till 1 a.m. The Chief Commissioner of BBMP , Tushar Giri Nath, told *The Hindu* that the BBMP will hold discussions with all the stakeholders like the Labour Department and others in connection with the deadline for operational hours. "At present, we do not have clarity on the types of establishments which can remain open post midnight."

BBMP will hold discussions with all the stakeholders in connection with the deadline for operational hours. FILE PHOTO

Businesses welcomed the move. Bengaluru Hotel Owners Association president P.C. Rao said the decision by the State government will encourage trade and boost profits. He added that the hotel association had requested the state government to allow business establishments to function round the clock.

Sushma Reddy and Shravya Reddy, founders of Nusa, said, " It is imperative that the government prioritises safety and security measures, particularly for women.. . With careful planning and attention to safety, the extended hours promise to enhance Bengaluru's economy, culture, and overall quality of life."

Four integrated waste management processing centres to come up

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Budget has proposed to set up an end-to-end waste management system from households to the waste processing centres. For this, Bengaluru Urban district will be divided into four different parts.

The outlay has proposed to identify four land parcels measuring between 50 acre and 100 acres to establish integrated waste processing units. These lands will be identified on the outskirts of Bengaluru. Earlier, the State government had proposed to identify land in Ramanagara too, but it was faced with opposition. In the Budget, the proposal to set up a new processing unit at Ramanagara has been dropped. However, recently, a waste management unit was opened at Bidadi.

The State government had proposed to identify land in Ramanagara, but it was faced with opposition, so in the Budget the proposal has been dropped

The Budget said the establishment of integrated waste management units in four places will solve Bengaluru's landfill problem for the next 30 years. The Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited will invite tenders to select the integrated waste management operators.

'Balanced Budget with a focus on creating growth, employment'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

The State Budget presented on Friday was "a well thought about, balanced and a developmental Budget" and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah focused on a wide spectrum of core areas such as agriculture, energy, women empowerment, education, skill development, healthcare, Bengaluru development and beyond Bengaluru, reacted trade body representatives in Karnataka.

The trade body FKCCI called it a balanced Budget focused on the growth, revival, and development of Beyond Bengaluru.

The establishment of a mega textile park in Kalaburgi and the construction of new textile parks in Kittur-Karnataka, Kalyana-Karnataka and Mysore region would boost investment inflow to the state and create employment, it said. "The proposed integrated township in Mysuru, Mangaluru, Hubbali, Dharwad, Belagavi, Kalaburagi, Tumakuru, Kolar and Ballari also would spur economic growth in tier 2 and tier 3 cities in the State,'' said Ramesh Chandra Lahoti, President, FKCCI. The thrust given to the agricultural sector, particularly the allocation of ₹10 crore for the digitisation of APMCs, would smoothen the operation of the traders community and farmers.

'The CM restricted the revenue deficit and fiscal deficit within the limits mandatory under the Karnataka Fiscal Responsibility Act 2022'

"Establishment of cold storage in APMCs, establishment of dry chilli market, establishment of bio-CNG plant and establishment of EV charging centres and petrol bunks will add value to APMC infrastructure,'' Lahoti added. Kassia welcomed the proposals of the upgradation of industrial estates with Central government support and also subsidisation of IPO expenses of small and medium industries.

The Chief Minister also mentioned the participation of government departments and public sector undertakings in TReDS portal which would make the functioning of MSMEs easier by getting the payment on time from them, said C.A. Shashidhara Shetty, president, Kassia.

However, he added, ''There are several other interesting proposals, but the Budget allocation for capital outlay is very minimal, which may not be sufficient to execute the proposals in our opinion."

The Chief Minister restricted the revenue deficit and fiscal deficit within the limits mandatory under the Karnataka Fiscal Responsibility Act 2022, he noted.

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The Budget presented by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah envisions a sustainable progressive development for the State with a focus on the energy sector. The Budget reiterates the State's commitment to creating an efficient and green energy ecosystem in Karnataka through its various proposed plans. The Budget explicitly stressed expanding the State's renewable capability by emphasising solar and green hydrogen programmes.

N. VENU,
MD & CEO, India and South Asia, Hitachi Energy

A Budget in the right direction. Initiatives like science city, knowledge, healthcare, innovation and research city and new AVGC policy coupled with seed capital support to the start-ups through Rajeev Gandhi entrepreneurship programme and supporting early stage women entrepreneurs and agri entrepreneurs will help Karnataka to sustain its technology leadership position. Setting up special unit to control fake news is a right step in right time.

B.V NAIDU, MANAGING DIRECTOR,
Startupxseed Ventures and Chairman, Karnataka Digital Economy Mission

We welcome Karnataka government's decision to introduce a Global Capability Centre (GCC) policy, as announced during the presentation of the 2024-25 Budget. This proactive step reflects the State's commitment to maintaining its leadership in the GCC market segment, fostering innovation and catalysing even higher levels of investments and job creation in the sector. We believe that the introduction of the GCC policy will provide the impetus necessary to maintain Karnataka's leadership in the GCC sector.

LALIT AHUJA, Founder and CEO ANSR, a GCC infrastructure firm

Amidst gloomy scenario, agricultural sector gets slew of innovative schemes

Budget announces scheme titled 'Karnataka Raitha Samruddhi Yojane' to promote integrated and sustainable farming to boost farmers' income

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

Amidst the gloomy scenario of agriculture sector reporting a negative growth of 1.8% due to severe drought, the State Budget for 2024-25 has announced a slew of innovative schemes for agricultural development, including a scheme titled Karnataka Raitha Samruddhi Yojane for promoting integrated and sustainable farming for boosting farm incomes.

The proposed scheme, which is in tune with the present day requirement of making farming a sustainable activity through integration of allied sectors, seeks to create awareness among farmers about ways of increasing their incomes by taking up a combination of activities related to agriculture, animal husbandry, horticulture, and dairy farming.

To promote sustainable agriculture in drought-affected and rainfed areas and for soil and water conservation, the Budget announced that 5,000 waterbodies will be created over five years. FILE PHOTO

The scheme involves technical counselling by experts on various aspects, including information on soil testing and soil characteristics, selection of crops based on soil characteristics and market demands, new farm practices and technologies, storage and value addition besides creating market linkages.

The Budget also seeks to create the Agriculture Development Authority under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister to facilitate effective implementation of policies related to agriculture and allied activities, besides ensuring proper co-ordination among these departments.

In a bid to tackle serious drought situation in the State, the Budget has not only continued Krishi Bhagya scheme, but also announced measures to build further on the scheme. To promote sustainable agriculture in drought-affected and rainfed areas and for soil and water conservation, the Budget announced that 5,000 waterbodies will be created over five years. According to sources, the waterbodies will be bigger than the Krishi Hondas (agricultural ponds) and aim at providing protective irrigation to crops during summer.

The highlight of the Budget is that it focused on food processing to increase farmers' incomes and announced setting up a separate Food Processing Directorate under Agriculture Department.

Panel to be constituted

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An expert committee will be constituted to examine the feasibility of starting an agriculture university in V.C. Farm of Mandya district in Karnataka, according to the Budget.

According to sources, the government was earlier keen to announce the setting up of a new University of Agricultural Sciences in Mandya, but has now decided to move cautiously following opposition from prominent academicians and experts. *The Hindu* had reported the government's move to set up a University of Agricultural Sciences in Mandya.

SECTOR-WISE

EDUCATION

Scheme to inculcate social harmony among students

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Budget presented on Friday offers a novel scheme to sow seeds of social harmony at the school and college level with a programme titled 'Navu Manujaru' (We are human beings). It is an interactive, two-hour, weekly class that will involve discussions and debates in all schools and colleges to promote values such as tolerance and scientific temper.

The Budget saw allocation for education sector jump by ₹6,462 crore in 2024-25 (to ₹44,422 crore from the previous ₹37,960 crore), and announced a programme to help children learn mathematics. 'Ganitha-Ganaka' programme, in collaboration with J-PAL Institute, is for students studying from classes 3 to 5.

'Marusinchana' programme will be taken up at a cost of ₹10 crore to improve learning ability of students of classes 6 and 7.

Among other promises for primary education is upgrade of 2,000 government primary schools as bilingual schools (Kannada and English) and Science and Computer Labs and Internet facility under a two-year package in government high schools with higher enrolment.

The Budget also announced NEET/JEE/CET training programme for about 20,000 students studying in science stream in government PU colleges. In higher education, the Budget announced upgrade of 30 Government Women First Grade Colleges and Government Women Polytechnic colleges.

To bring more efficiency in the working of the Medical Education Department, the Medical Education Directorate will be upgraded to a Commissionerate.

HEALTH

Focus on upgrade of infrastructure

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

While the overall funding for the health sector remains the same as last year at 4% (₹15,145 crore) of the total Budget, the focus this time is only on upgrading public health infrastructure, strengthening lab services, and establishing critical care hubs in every district.

Apart from construction of 100-bedded taluk hospitals at a cost of ₹280 crore in Anekal, Nelamangala, Hoskote, Sringeri, Khanapura, Shirahatti, and Yelandur taluks where there are no taluk hospitals, the Budget has proposed to start day-care chemotherapy centres in each district at a cost of ₹20 crore.

On cancer

For early diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer and cervical cancer, the incidence of which is on the rise, the Budget has announced that digital mammography equipment will be provided to 20 district hospitals. Besides, colposcopy machines will be provided to K.C. General hospital in Bengaluru and district hospitals of Udupi, Kolar, and Davangere at the cost of ₹21 crore.

While there is no mention of any new health scheme or provision of manpower to effectively run the existing facilities, allocations have been made for repairs and renovation and infrastructure development.

C.N. Manjunath, former director of Jayadeva Institute, said the need of the hour is to reinforce and strengthen the existing facilities with adequate manpower to improve their functionality.

"We should optimally utilise the existing facilities and focus should move from construction to creation of posts with exclusive budgetary support for quality care. The Ayushman Bharat Arogya Karnataka health scheme should have got some allocation for revision of package rates. Because of the poor package rates, many private hospitals are not keen on empanelment and this in turn is resulting in more patient load on the public facilities," he said.

Priority to completing UKP-III project

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said priority will be given to land acquisition and resettlement and rehabilitation as well as completion of sub-schemes under North Karnataka's ambitious Upper Krishna Phase-III Project. All necessary legal measures will be taken up along with pursuing the Centre to notify the final award of Krishna Tribunal-II, he said.

He also said a pre-commissioning test has been conducted by discharging water to delivery chamber near Doddanagara under Yettihanole Integrated Drinking Water Project.

Gross allocations

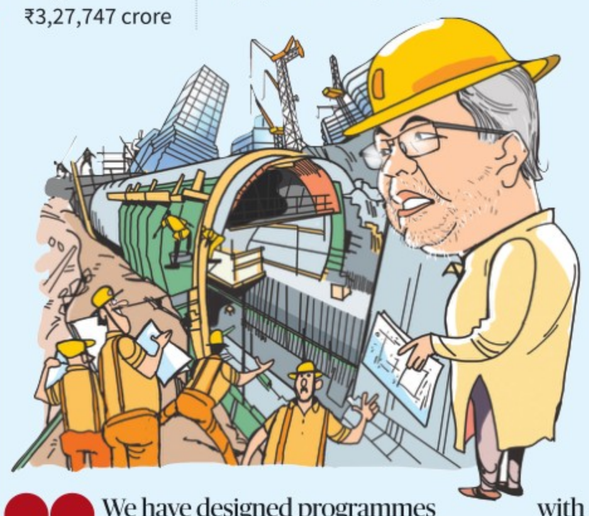
	Allocation (in ₹crore)	% of total Budget outlay	Change compared to July 2023
Education	44,422	12%	+1%
Health and Family Welfare	15,145	4%	–
Agriculture and Horticulture	6,688	2%	–
Animal Husbandry and Fisheries	3,307	1%	–
Irrigation	19,179	5%	-1%
Food and Civil Supplies	9,963	3%	–
Rural Development	21,160	5%	–
Urban Development and Housing	18,155	5%	-1%
Women and Child Development	34,406	9%	+2%
Energy	23,159	6%	-1%
Social Welfare	13,334	3%	–
Public Works	10,424	3%	–
Home and Transport	19,777	5%	–
Revenue	16,170	4%	-1%
Others	1,24,593	33%	+1%

Revised estimates for 2023-24

Total expenditure
₹3,17,836 crore
as against
₹3,27,747 crore

Revenue expenditure
₹2,40,731 crore

Capital expenditure and loan repayment
₹77,105 crore



We have designed programmes with an aim to increase purchasing capacity of the poor. Disproving the misinformation that the State has gone bankrupt owing to guarantee schemes, we have achieved good economic growth.

SIDDARAMAIAH, Chief Minister

State of the economy for 2023-24

- Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) Estimate for 2023-24 **₹25,67,340 crore**
- Growth of the State economy **6.6%**
- Services sector **8.7%**
- Industrial sector **7.5%**
- Agricultural sector - contracted by **1.8%**
- Foreign Direct Investment inflow **$2.8 billion** (as of September 2023)
- Karnataka second highest collector of GST, which grew by **18%** in 2023-24, compared to 2022-23
- State's own tax revenue is projected to grow by **12%** in 2023-24

ILLUSTRATION: SATHEESH VELLINEZHI

'Pragati Path' to develop road network

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Focussing on rural road development, the State Budget has proposed to roll out 'Pragati Path' scheme with external assistance. Under this, the proposal is to develop a road network of 9,450 km with 50 km each in 189 rural Assembly constituencies at a cost of ₹5,200 crore.

Under the Kalyana Path scheme, the Budget has proposed to develop 1,150 km of roads on the lines of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in 38 rural Assembly constituencies of Kalyana Karnataka. The roads will be developed at a cost of ₹1,000 crore.

E-office in GP

Announcing that an asset monetisation policy will be formulated to augment the revenue of gram panchayats, the Budget has proposed to implement e-office in all gram panchayats.

"Transfers of Panchayat Development Officers, Gram Panchayat Secretaries and Accounts Assistants will be done through counselling. All services provided through Seva Sindhu portal will be started through Bapuji Seva Centre from this year," the Budget stated.

With a focus on healthcare in rural areas, the Budget has proposed to start palliative care centres in 100 select gram panchayats from this year.

It has proposed to initiate Savitribai Phule Women Empowerment Programme in 100 gram panchayats of the State to provide vocational skill training to women.

Cold press oil units will be established in all gram panchayats through the self-help groups with financial assistance of ₹1 lakh each.

Ecotourism, development of ancient monuments take centre stage

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government will request the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to take up research and restoration work on the archaeological monuments and remains at Nagavi in Chittapur taluk of Kalaburagi district, said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in his Budget speech on Friday.

Nagavi is believed to be the first university of Karnataka set up during the reign of the Rashtrakutas.

Mr. Siddaramaiah also earmarked ₹15 crore for the revival of 'karez', a popular ancient water supply system in Bidar and Vijayapura districts.

To provide a boost to ecotourism in Karnataka, Jungle Lodges and Resorts will establish interpretation centres at Bandipur, Dandeli and Kabini at a cost of ₹25 crore, Mr. Siddaramaiah said. The government will also promote ecotourism in Kapatagudda in Gadag district.

Apart from these, he also spoke about revising the Karnataka Tourism Policy 2020-2026 to Tourism Policy 2024-2029 to attract more tourists and investors.

Development of ropeway/cable car facilities in 10 major tourist destinations of the State, ₹100 crore for development of amenities in Anjanadri Hill in Koppa district, constitution of Sri Renuka Yellamma Tourism Development Board, and improved amenities at Gokak falls were the other major announcements made in the Budget.

Renewable energy projects get a big push

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

A 300 kw self-sustained Green Hydrogen plant will be installed by Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL) to attract more investment to the Green Hydrogen sector, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced in his Budget speech on Friday.

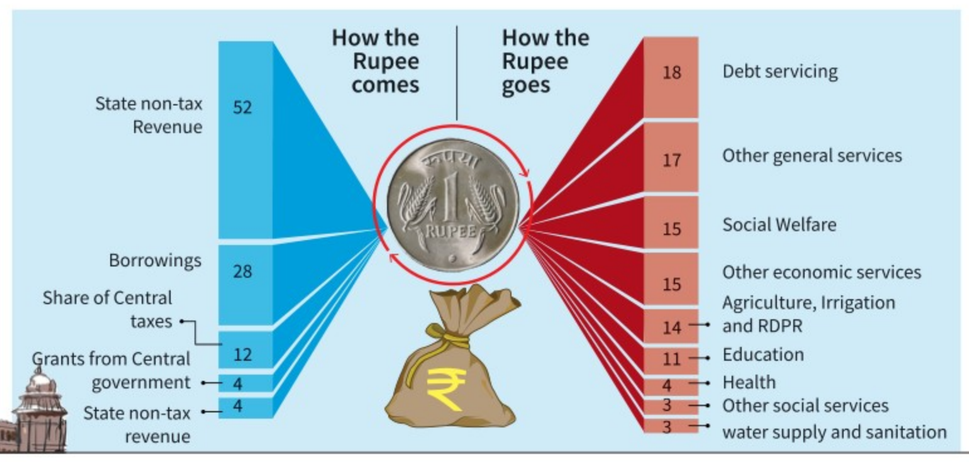
The plant will be installed on a pilot basis at a cost of ₹10 crore using Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) funds. While expressing the government's commitment to make Karnataka a pioneer in energy production, this year's Budget focussed majorly on renewable energy projects. "Renewable energy constitutes 63% of the total energy generated in the State," he said.

In a push to sustainable mobility, 2,500 electric vehicle charging stations will be set up in the State under Public-Private Partnership.

He also a proposed Ultra High Voltage (UHV) transmission lines of 765 kV capacity, which will be laid by KPTCL to enhance the production of renewable energy on a larger scale and to transmit that energy to load centres and Green Hydrogen hubs.

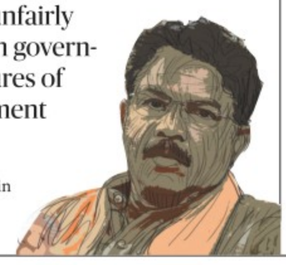
Another pilot project mentioned in the Budget was to install microgrid solar units of 500 KW battery storage capacity in one backward village in the jurisdiction of each Escom. This will also be implemented by KREDL with the aim of making these villages self-reliant.

In a push to sustainable mobility, 2,500 electric vehicle charging stations will be set up in the State under Public-Private Partnership and 100 will be set by escoms at a cost of ₹35 crore.



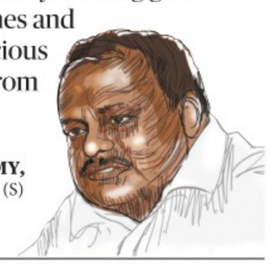
> This is a bogus and empty Budget. It neither makes any economic sense nor is it development-oriented or has any vision for the State. Siddaramaiah has only given a "loan bhagya" of ₹44,000 to each citizen of the State and unfairly blamed the Union government for the failures of the State government

R. ASHOK,
Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly



> The government seems to have not come out of the euphoria around guarantee schemes. Even in the second Budget presented by the government, they still are only offering guarantee schemes and there is precious little apart from that.

H.D. KUMARASWAMY,
president, State JD (S)



Revenue deficit unlikely to come down at least till 2026-2027

The deficit that was 0.49 % of the GSDP in 2023-24 will increase to 0.97 % in 2024-2025; govt. to dip into SCSP/TSP funds meant for SC, ST welfare

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

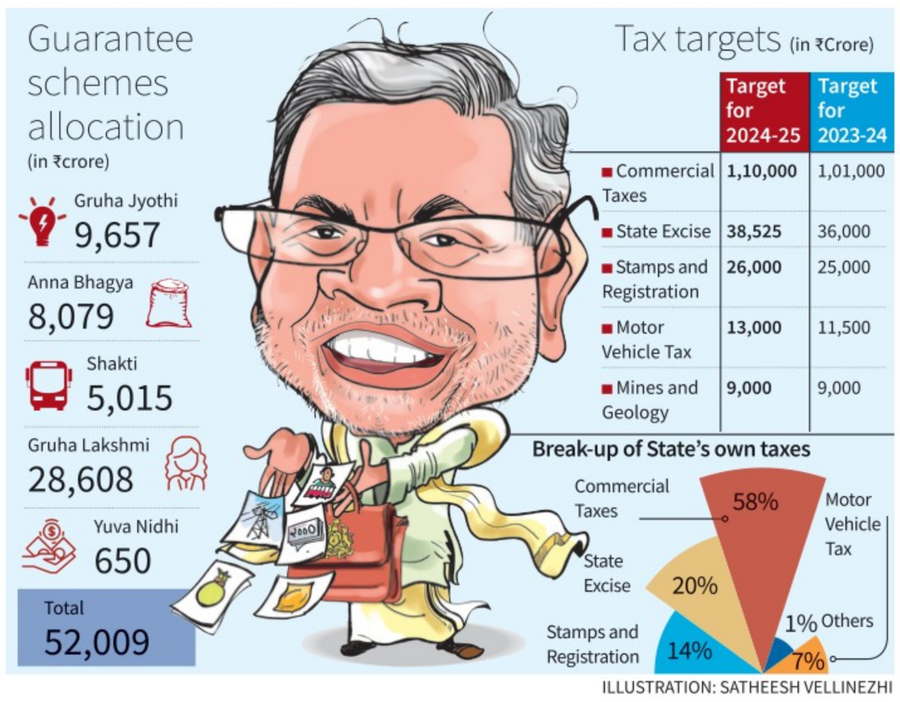


ILLUSTRATION: SATHEESH VELLINEZHI

The revenue deficit in the Budget presented by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday, which is due to the implementation of the five guarantee schemes of the Congress, is unlikely to come down at least till 2026-2027.

The revenue deficit has increased from ₹ 12,523 crore in 2023-2024 (when the government estimated to spend ₹ 36,000 crore on guarantees) to ₹ 27,254 crore in 2024-2025 with the government allocating ₹ 52,000 crore. This is likely to up further. The revenue deficit that was 0.49 % of the GSDP in 2023-24 will increase to 0.97 % in 2024-2025. In 2022-2023, the State had a revenue surplus budget due to the ₹20,000 crore released by the Centre as GST compensation. "We do not expect the revenue deficit to come down at least till 2026-2027. Barring Gruha Jyothi, which is expected to increase by about 8 % to 10 %, the cost incurred on other guarantees of Gruha Lakshmi, Anna Bhagya and Shakti, is expected to remain stable. On the other hand, we expect resource mobilisation to increase by 10 % to 12 % annually. This would mean, the revenue deficit will remain for at least next two financial years," a Revenue Department official said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah also acknowledged that the government will dip into the SCSP/TSP funds meant for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes welfare to fund the guarantee schemes like last year, since they also benefit from guarantees, and that it would be proportionate to the population.

With State government raising the issue of "injustice" in tax devolution from the Centre and pressure of implementing the guarantees within the available resources, the government has increased the borrowing to ₹ 1.05 lakh crore in 2024-2025, up from ₹ 85,818 crore in 2023-2024, taking the total outstanding liabilities of the State to ₹ 6.65 lakh crore. The fiscal deficit is pegged at ₹ 82,981 crore or 2.95 % of the GSDP in 2024-2025 compared to ₹ 66,646 crore or 2.60 % of the GSDP in 2023-2024.

The net result has been that the capital expenditure outlay at ₹ 52,902 crore has seen a marginal increase by 3 % while the Budget outlay has increased by 13 %. A senior government official acknowledged that the capital expenditure was under stress as the general services, including debt servicing and salaries/ pensions account for 35 % or about ₹ 1.59 lakh crore of the total Budget outlay of 3.71 lakh crore. Besides the guarantees, the State government is also under pressure to implement the 7th Pay Commission recommendation to its employees that is estimated to cost between ₹ 15,000 crore and ₹ 20,000 crore. "The allocation in general services has been increased partly due to the expected wage revision this year," another official said. Incidentally, the committee expenditure on salaries, pensions, interest payment and administration expenditure account to ₹95,000 crore.

Excise duty slabs on IML and beer to be rationalised

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a bid to bring liquor prices on a par with the neighbouring States, Karnataka will rationalise excise duty slabs, which is likely to bring down the prices of premium liquor while increasing lower end liquor marginally during the next financial year.

May miss target

Without announcing any increase in excise duty, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday announced that the excise duty slabs on IML and beer will be rationalised and make Karnataka competitive with neighbouring States.

Incidentally, the Excise Department had been given a target of ₹36,000 crore owing to reduced demand, and the department is likely to miss its target. The government revised the excise duty rate for beer last month as the State reported a higher beer sales.

Finance Department sources said that the rationalisation of slabs had been a demand from the industry for sometime as certain slabs or rate had become redundant, making the liquor prices uncompetitive.

"Because of the higher price, Karnataka is losing business in the high end liquor sales," a senior Finance Department official explained, adding that the distilleries had also complained of increasing cost of production but lower returns.

He said, "While premium liquor contribute about 2% to 3% of the total excise revenue in Karnataka, it contributes about 52% of the total excise revenue in Telangana. The prices of beer will also be looked into."

More revenue

The official said that the reduction in excise duty is expected to mop up more revenue.

On the expected time frame for rationalisation, the official said it is likely to be implemented during the next excise year, which starts from June.

State set to miss revenue target this year by ₹10,000 cr.

Sharth S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

Amidst a tightrope walk for the government that is implementing guarantee schemes, Karnataka is set to miss its revenue target this year by about ₹ 10,000 crore for a range of reasons, including drought and GST issues, though overall State's own tax revenue is estimated to grow by 12 %.

Speaking on other reasons for not meeting the target, a government official said that the State had set an ambitious target for 2023-24, anticipating higher growth that did not happen.

Drought has played a major role in reduction of GST collection.
FILE PHOTO

Higher targets

Despite not being able to reach revenue targets for 2023-24, the State government has set much higher revenue targets for all State's taxes in 2024-25. While target for Commercial Taxes has risen by 11.5%, target for Excise has risen by 7%, Stamps and Registration by 4% and Motor Vehicle Tax by 13%. However, the official said, "We have set realistic targets for 2024-25 year."

Barring motor vehicle tax, the State seems to have slipped in commercial tax that had a target of ₹ 98,650 crore, excise duty target of ₹ 36,000 crore, stamps and registration target of ₹ 25,000 crore.

The State has lost out about ₹ 2,000 crore in GST, including about ₹ 1,200 crore towards compensation and ₹ 800 crore towards IGST settlement. "The Centre has adjusted about ₹ 2,000 crore to earlier higher payment made to the State and we will have this reduced in the total GST given to the State," a government official said. Another official said GST collection had also come down due to reduced government spending on public works which attracts 18% GST. "This has, however, picked up now," he added.

While drought has played a major role in reduction of GST collection, the price stabilisation in steel and petroleum products had also reduced GST collection.

"The government forecast the collection based on 14 % growth in this sector, which did not happen. Prices that were rising stabilised this year." Overall, the growth rate of resources was expected to be about 18 % while actual growth rate was about 14 %, the official explained.

Eventually, the total GST collection could be around ₹ 95,000 crore and the stamps and registration department could fall short of the target by about ₹ 5,000 crore and excise duty could come down by over ₹ 1,000 crore by the end of this financial year.

Meanwhile, though the government has claimed to have put ₹ 4,000 to ₹ 5,000 a month in poor families contributing to revival of economy, government sources said that though it contributed to GST collection, but it has not been much.

Preamble on the cover of Budget book

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

For the first time, the book of the Budget speech that the CM read out on Friday had the preamble of the Constitution of India and the colours of the Kannada flag. The Congress-led government had held a grand event on the steps of Vidhana Soudha on September 15, 2023 along with simultaneous readings of the preamble of the Constitution. The State government has also made reading the preamble mandatory in all schools and colleges, everyday. The preamble of the Constitution of India has of late emerged as a symbol of assertion of the pluralist idea of India.

Revenue Dept. to provide all services online

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Revenue Department has decided to provide all its services online. "Under the Digi-Kandaya scheme, action will be taken to provide all services provided by the Revenue Department to the public through digital platforms. Offices from village level to the State level will be covered under digital service," the Budget said.

"Digitalisation of Aakarbands will be undertaken for the speedy delivery of services to landholders by interlinking the land extent in Akarband and RTCs," the Budget further said. "In order to provide good governance, action will be taken to enable the mutations without notice (except pouthi Katha and mutation through J-slip) to be automatically approved in prescribed software," it further said.

The Budget also announced that 'Bhoo-Suraksha' scheme will be rolled out on a pilot basis to provide the citizen computerised records online by scanning land, survey and registration records of the Revenue Department. "By this we can computerise and maintain the old records permanently without allowing us to create fake records," the Budget said. "Action will be taken to make revenue records available to the public through a transparent and online system by modernising 240 record rooms of the Land Survey Department. By using Land Beat App RTC's of flagged government land in Bhoomi software will be monitored and preserved against encroachment," the Budget further said.

VIEWPOINT

NARENDAR PANI
ECONOMIST

A radical approach to revenue deficit

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah states that a revenue surplus is meaningless if the State cannot aid the poor and the needy in times of distress

If the Congress needed to demonstrate that the guarantees it offered in the elections last year were a part of its longer-term strategy for Karnataka, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's Budget does so quite unequivocally. Instead of just trying to squeeze out funds for the guarantees promised at that time, he has added fresh welfare measures, including 430 free medical laboratories to be set up in Bengaluru. And the Budget reflects a financial thinking that would, if it works, make the guarantee-led model financially sustainable.

The radical part of this strategy lies in its approach to the revenue deficit. Conventional wisdom has it that the government should strive for a surplus on the revenue account that would help finance capital expenditure. The Budget breaks out of this thinking with the Chief Minister stating that a revenue surplus is meaningless if the State cannot aid the poor and the needy in times of distress. He has gone on to concretise this approach with a budgeted revenue deficit of ₹27,354 crore, nearly 1% of Karnataka's GSDP. At the same time, he has made it clear that this is not a sign of fiscal profligacy. He has kept the fiscal deficit at 2.95% of GSDP, which is below the level mandated by the Karnataka Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2022.

Instead of just trying to squeeze out funds for the guarantees promised, CM has added fresh welfare measures, including 430 free medical labs

A strategy that allows the revenue deficit to increase while keeping the overall fiscal deficit in control puts pressure on capital expenditure. The Chief Minister hopes to ease this pressure by mobilising private capital through a variety of measures. The Budget makes all the usual noises about foreign investment, including a Global Investors Meet, but what is worth watching are the innovative steps it takes on mobilising domestic capital.

The move to help small and medium industries launch IPOs is a particularly interesting one. While the success of a company like Infosys in Karnataka's growth story is well recognised, the various steps it took in the early stages of its existence are often forgotten. It was at one time little more than a small company that used an IPO to raise capital. This is a model that is not open to many current small and medium industries due to the very high cost of an IPO. The budget provides a path for the State government to help by offering financial assistance to small and medium companies of up to 50% of the costs of an IPO. With a ceiling of ₹25 lakh it may not seem like a major initiative, but if even a couple of these companies follow the paths laid out by those who rose from similar beginnings to become corporate giants, the impact on Karnataka's economy would be very significant.

The budget also suggests a fresh look at the idea of public-private partnerships. The Karnataka State Warehousing Corporation has been facing a severe financial crisis. The budget proposes using the unutilised storage facilities to develop cold storages through the PPP route. Making this and other initiatives effective would call for a fresh look at the entire PPP strategy of the state government, something that the budget promises to do. The overall strategy of enabling private sector investment while concentrating the State's resources on the poor and needy is one that provides opportunities even as it has its risks. More than three decades after liberalisation, the private sector should be in a position to take care of itself with just a little help from State governments. The risks lie in the fact that the private sector has multiple locations across the world that it can invest in. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has bet that Karnataka has no reason to fear that competition. The coming year will provide the first indications of whether he is right.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Chief Health Officer (Public Health),
BBMP Head Office, Ground Floor, Annex-2 Building,
N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002.

No: BBMP/2023-24/IND0031 Date: 16-02-2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike invites Short Term Tenders from eligible bidders for the following.

Name of the Work: **1) Short term tender for the Supply of Lab Reagents Consumables and Other Items.**

Tender Reference Number: **BBMP/2023-24/IND0031**

2) Request for Proposal for Providing Light Commercial Vehicles Non-AC with Driver on Monthly Rental Basis.

Tender Reference Number: **BBMP/2023-24/SE0111**

1) Date of Commencement of Download of Document from KPP Porta Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 16-02-2024. 2)** Date and Time of Pre Bid Meeting: **19-02-2024 at 11.00 AM at the Office of the Chief Health Officer, 3rd Floor, Annex-3 Building, Bengaluru - 560002. 3)** Last Date and Time for Uploading Online Queries in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: **19-02-2024 upto 5.00 PM. 4)** Last Date for Uploading Tenders in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: **23-02-2024 upto 5.00 PM. 5)** Date and Time of Online Opening of Technical Bids: **26-02-2024 at 11.00 AM.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/-
Chief Health Officer (Public Health), BBMP.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of Special Commissioner (Revenue),
N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002

No.: SC(Rev)/PR/285/2023-24 Date: 16.02.2024

SITUATION VACANT

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike is seeking two experienced consultants with expertise in surveying, each having a minimum of 15 years of experience in government works / projects and holding a rank not less than Deputy Director of Land Records preferably Joint Director of Land records. Placement will be initially for a period of two years and payment per month and other details are based on the mutual discussion. Interested candidates are invited to apply with their complete biodata to the Special Commissioner (Revenue), BBMP at email: spcomm-rev@bbmp.gov.in

An interview based selection will be conducted on date: February 26th, 2024, Time: 12:00 PM, Venue: Office of Special Commissioner (Revenue), BBMP Head Office, for the suitable & eligible candidates.

For further details and application submission, please contact 080-22235519.

Sd/-
Special Commissioner (Revenue),
Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. GEM/2024/B/4607869
Dated: 09-02-2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

For all Parcel handling activities of loading, unloading and shifting of Parcels/Luggage booked by Railways i.e non-leased parcels from various Platforms to Parcel Office and vice-versa by employing dedicated staff for working exclusively in the inward and outword Parcel Office of KSR Bengaluru city (SBC) Yesvantpur (YPR) Sri M Visvesvaraya Terminal Bengaluru (SMVB) & Yelahanka (YNK) Railway Station for approximate tonnage of 68255 tons for a period of 01 year.

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 13:00 Hrs. on 23-02-2024
For details log on : https://gem.gov.in

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager
PUB/691/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24 Bengaluru

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಒಂದು ಉದ್ಯಮ)

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಎಸ್.ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಸಾಗರ

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 10/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.01.2024

ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ 13 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 67.77 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 422.77 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ರೂ. 68,000/– ಮತ್ತು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ರೂ. 6,35,000/– ಆಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಕೆಲಸದ ವಿವರ, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ, ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮುಂತಾದ ಇತರ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಅಥವಾ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಎಸ್.ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಸಾಗರ.

Government of Karnataka Zilla Panchayath, Chitradurga

Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chitradurga

e-mail: zped_cta@yahoo.com zped.cta@gmail.com Ph: 08194-222372

No. P.R.E.D./CD/EE/TS/Tender/2023-24/2295 Date:15.02.2024

Tender Notice

(Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

Short-Term Tender is invited for 14 works approved under various schemes in the limits of Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chitradurga of Chitradurga District and Approx. Amount of Tender Minimum Rs. 10.00 lakhs, Maximum Rs. 98.40.00 lakhs and Tender is invited for total Rs. 632.15 lakhs and dates are as below: Last date and time for obtaining information regarding the Tender 23.02.2024 : 16.30 Hrs. Last date and time for submission of Tender 26.02.2024 : 16.00 Hrs. Date and time for opening Technical Bid 27.02.2024 : 16.01 Hrs. Date and time for opening Technical, Financial Bid 28.02.2024 : 16.02 Hrs.

For further information regarding the Tender visit website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact e-proc Help Desk Phone No.: 080-25501216, 080-22501227 or phone no.: 08194-222372, Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Chitradurga during office hours.

RO.No.579:DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/2023-24

Sd/- Executive Engineer
P.R.E. Division, Chitradurga

PUBLIC NOTICE

We the undersigned inform the general public that the original documents listed below in respect of the property No. G-2, Ground floor, SNS Manor, Site No. 2 Brunton Road, Bangalore, acquired through the Sale Deed executed in our favour by Smt. Pramila Shankar, Sri P Manoranjan and Smt. Suma and construction Agreement with S N S Manor have been irretrievably lost / misplaced while in transit from Yemlur (House) to Ulsoor (Office).

1. Sale deed executed by Smt. Pramila Shankar, Sri P Manoranjan and Smt. Suma in our favour on 28/10/1994 registered before Sub Registrar of Assurances Shivajinagar, Bangalore as Document No. 2408/1994-95 from Page 73 to 78.
2. Construction Agreement for construction of Apartment No. G-2, Ground Floor, measuring, about 1518 Sq. Ft on property bearing Site No. 2, Brunton Road, Bangalore – 560001 with exclusive Garden Area of 1882 Sq. Ft.
3. The Khata Certificate and Khatha extract of the aforesaid property.
4. Encumbrance Certificate relating to the aforesaid Property.
5. Property Tax challans of the aforesaid Property.

In this regard, police complaint has been filed to Bangalore City Police vide lost report no. 0869851/2023 on 30/12/2023. Any person/s in possession of the said documents, may please contact the Bangalore City Police or contact us on Mob. No. 98450 03000 or 98450 04499. The Public is also cautioned not to deal or enter into any transaction on the strength of the above lost documents and I shall not be bound by or responsible for the consequences for such transactions/deal.

Further, any person/persons who claims any right, title or interest of any nature or any lien, charge or enforceable right in relation to the aforesaid properties and/or has any objections of any nature to the transaction should lodge such claim and/or objections in writing to the undersigned together with supporting documents within fifteen (15) days hereof, failing which it will presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and my clients would proceed to complete the transaction proposed with the Company subject to compliance with other statutory and legal formalities.

Prakash R Belani
#281,1st block, 4th MainRoad,
Opposite BDA Nursery Park,
Koramangala, Bangalore-560034

Sunder R Belani
C-7, Epsilon,
Yemlur,
Bangalore – 560037

Date: 16-02-2024
Place : Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

I the undersigned inform the general public that the original documents listed below in respect of the property bearing No. 306-A, in Third Floor of "PRESTIGE TOWERS" bearing Municipal No.99 & 100, Field Marshal, K.M.Cariappa Road acquired through the Sale Deed executed in my favour by the Prestige Estates Private Limited have been irretrievably lost / misplaced while in transit from Varthur (House) to Ulsoor (Office).

1. Sale deed dated 15/03/2001 registered as document No. 4066/2000-01 before Senior Sub Registrar of Assurances, Shivajinagar, Bangalore.
2. Agreement to sell dated 02/12/2000 for purchase of 197.83 Sq.Feet in property bearing Municipal No.99 & 100, Field Marshall, KM Cariappa Road, Bangalore.
3. Construction Agreement dated 02/12/2000 for construction of 823 Sq.Feet on property bearing Municipal No. 99 & 100, Field Marshall, KM Cariappa Road, Bangalore.
4. The Khata Certificate and Khatha extract relating to the aforesaid property.
5. Encumbrance Certificate relating to the aforesaid Property.
6. Property Tax challans relating to the aforesaid Property.

In this regard, police complaint has been filed to Bangalore City Police vide lost report no. 0869843 /2023 on 30/12/2023. Any person/s in possession of the said documents, may please contact the Bangalore City Police or contact me on Mob. No. 98450 03002. The Public is also cautioned not to deal or enter into any transaction on the strength of the above lost documents and I shall not be bound by or responsible for the consequences for such transactions/deal.

Further, any person/persons who claims any right, title or interest of any nature or any lien, charge or enforceable right in relation to the aforesaid properties and/or has any objections of any nature to the transaction should lodge such claim and/or objections in writing to the undersigned together with supporting documents within fifteen (15) days hereof, failing which it will presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and my clients would proceed to complete the transaction proposed with the Company subject to compliance with other statutory and legal formalities.

Chand R Belani
No B-2, Paradise Nest,
Varthur Main Road,
Thubarahalli, Bangalore 560066

Date: 16-02-2024
Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

We the undersigned inform the general public that the original documents listed below in respect of the unit bearing No.101 in First Level "Mezzanine Floor" "PRESTIGE PENTA" constructed on property bearing Municipal No.60 to 69 (old municipal no. 97 and 97A), Brigade Road, Bangalore,560025 acquired through the Sale Deed executed in our favour by erstwhile Owners and construction Agreement with Prestige Estate Limited have been irretrievably lost / misplaced while in transit from Kormangala (House) to Ulsoor (Office).

1. Sale deed executed by erstwhile Owners in our favour on 30/05/2008 registered before Sub Registrar of Assurances Shivajinagar, Bangalore as Document No. SHV-1-2008-09 in Book-I and stored in CD No. SHVD99 on the same day.
2. Construction Agreement with Prestige Estates Private Limited on 09/05/2005.
3. The Khata Certificate and Khatha extract of the aforesaid property.
4. Encumbrance Certificate relating to the aforesaid Property.
5. Property Tax challans of the aforesaid Property.

In this regard, police complaint has been filed to Bangalore City Police vide lost report no. 0866869/2023 on 28/12/2023. Any person/s in possession of the said documents, may please contact the Bangalore City Police or contact us on Mob. No. 98450 03000 or 98450 04499. The Public is also cautioned not to deal or enter into any transaction on the strength of the above lost documents and I shall not be bound by or responsible for the consequences for such transactions/deal.

Further, any person/persons who claims any right, title or interest of any nature or any lien, charge or enforceable right in relation to the aforesaid properties and/or has any objections of any nature to the transaction should lodge such claim and/or objections in writing to the undersigned together with supporting documents within fifteen (15) days hereof, failing which it will presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and my clients would proceed to complete the transaction proposed with the Company subject to compliance with other statutory and legal formalities.

Prakash R Belani
#281,1st block, 4th MainRoad,
Opposite BDA Nursery Park,
Koramangala, Bangalore-560034

Sunder R Belani
C-7, Epsilon,
Yemlur,
Bangalore – 560037

Date:16-02-2024
Bangalore.

Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department

Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water DevelopmentDivision Office, Shivamogga

I.F.T. No.: 07/2022-23 Date: 15.02.2024

Section 1: Short-Term Tender Notice (e-procurement)-K.W.-2

From the office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Division, Shivamogga, Tender Notice was issuedas per Standard Tender K.W.-2for 12works in the limits of Tarikere Taluk Sub Division.Minimum amount put to tender is Rs. 28.98 lakhs and Maximum amount Rs. 49.07 lakhs.Contractors interested in participating in this tender can obtain the minimum eligibility criteria for the acceptance of the tender and further details by logging on to the e-procurement website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.infrom 15.02.2024. Last date for submitting the tender is 22.02.2024. The other details in the website are final.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Division Office, Shivamogga

DIPR/smg/No.130/02/23-24/KSMCA/1290

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND SPORTS

State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru - 560 001
Ph: 080-22215601, 22211246, Fax: 080-22215602

No: DYES/SSH/347/2023-24 Date: 16-02-2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

The Deputy Director (Admn), invites tender from the eligible contractors for the following work.

Sl. No.	Particulars	Tender Amount (in Rs.)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)
1	Procurement of Hockey Shoes & Volleyballs to Sports Hostels across Karnataka.	67,77,618/-	1,35,552/-

The tender should be submitted through e-Procurement Portal: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Vendors need to register in the e-Procurement Portal to submit their bids online. The tender document can be viewed free of cost from the e-Procurement Portal.

1) Last Date and Time for Submission of Tender Documents through E-Procurement Portal: **23-02-2024, Time: 16.00 Hrs.**

2) Opening of Technical Bid: **26-02-2024, Time: 16.30 Hrs.**

Further information may be obtained at the above mentioned Address.

DIPR/CP/3650/Adverto/2023-24

Sd/- Deputy Director (Admn) and Tender Inviting Authority
Dept. of Youth Empowerment and Sports

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number
1800 102 1878
Or write to us at
customercare@thehindu.co.in

Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU businessline. FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR The Hindu Young World THE HINDU

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sri. Pallapothu Nagaraju, S/o. Sri. Anjaneyulu has intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration with its owner Sri. Jarugu Surya Narayana Reddy S/o. Sri. Jarugu Chenchu Reddy Residing at No. 68, P. R. Layout, 3rd Cross, Munnekolala, Marathahalli Post, Bangalore- 560 037.

If any persons, banks, financial intuitions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE

Residential Plot bearing No.8 BBMP Khata bearing No. 635/141/2 measuring East to West 56' + 56'.4"/2 Sq. Ft. & North to South 30 Sq. Ft total measuring 1686 Sq. Feet. formed in converted Old Sy. No. 11, New Sy. No. 141/2, Vide conversion order No. ALN (EVH) SR88/07-08 Dated 14-10-2008, situated at Doddakannelli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, and bounded on the : East by : 25 Feet Road, West by : Private Property, North by : Plot No.7, South by : Plot No.9.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B, & B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR, Advocates, # 96, 1st Floor, 1st Main, 4th Cross, Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala, Bangalore-68, Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
Bangalore, Date : 16-02-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its owner, **M/s.Maloo Constructions [India] Pvt. Ltd.,** represented by its Director, Mr.Hiralal Maloo, having its office at No.A-204/205, 2nd floor, 25/226, Brigade majestic, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bangalore-560009.

Apart from the said owner, if any other person/s have any manner of claim or interest or demand over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s (along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying), with the undersigned within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of non-agricultural industrial land identified as Plot No.15, admeasuring 6.06 Guntas and Plot No.19, admeasuring 6.06 Guntas, carved out of non-agricultural industrial land bearing Sy.No.191 (part of Old Sy.No.165), together with a factory shed thereon, situated at Kumbalagodu Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk and bounded on:

East by : 12 Mtrs. Road
West by : 12 Mtrs. Road
North by : 12 Mtrs. Road
South by : Plot Nos.14 and 20

Sd/- **S.F. GOUTAM CHAND**
Advocate
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560 004.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client **Mr. Madhukar Ramesh Punekar**, S/o Mr. R.N. Punekar, residing at No. 54, Sharma Apartments, 1st Main, 1st Cross, Nagappa Block, Bangalore-560021. My client Mr. Madhukar Ramesh Punekar is the owner of the property Residential Villa Plot No.589, Mellapura Village, Panchayat Khatha No.254/40/589 formed in schedule B Property situated at Hampapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Srirangapatna Taluk, Mandya District, Karnataka State in the developed Residential Villas Layout known as **"NICE VISTAS"** developed on the entire Schedule "A" property, Measuring an extent of East to West : 12.19 meters North to South : 22.86 meters measuring in all : 278.66 square meters. The said property acquired through registered sale deed from M/s. Blue Valley Properties Private Limited represented by its Managing Director, represented by the GPA Holder R. Parthasarthi and registered in the office of Sub registrar Srirangapatna, document No. SRP-1-04337/2010-11, stored in C. D. No. SRPD61 of book-I, dated: 29/03/2011.

My client lost the above said original Sale Deed, my client has lodged the complaint on 23-01-2024 at Bengaluru City Police and Lost Report No. 0899683/2024 in respect of original Sale Deed. In the event any person finds or in possession of the above said original documents kindly handed over the same to the below mentioned address **within 15 days** of the publication of this notice. The general public is informed not to act on the basis of the said original documents.

SCHEDULE A (Composite property of Residential Layout)

All that piece and parcel of the properties bearing Survey Nos. 94/P1, 94/P2, 95/P1, 95/P2, 110, 110/P, 111/1, 111/1PAI, 111/2, 112, 120/PA1P1, 120/PA1P2,121/1, 580, 145/1, 146/1A, 146/1B, 147/2B-PA1-P1, 147/2B-PA1-P2, 158/1, 158/2, 159/2, 159/3, 160/1, 160/2PA1K1-P3, 160/2PAIKIP1, 160/2PAIK1P2, 160/3, 160/4P1, 161/1, 161/2PAIK1P1, 161/2PA1K1P2, 161/3, 162, 164/1A 164/1B, 164/1BPA1K1, 164/2A, 164/2BP1, 164/2BP2, 165/1, 165/2, 165/3, 165/3PA1K1, 166/1APA1, 166/1APAIK1, 166/1B, 166/2PA1KI, 166/2PAIK1-P2, 167/PA1K1-P3, 167/PA1K1P1, 167/PAIKIP2, 168/1PA1K1P1, 168/1PAIK1P2, 168/4, 168/5P1K1P1, 168/6PAI, 168/78P3, 169, totally measuring an extent of 88 Acres 32 Guntas all situated of Hampapura, Hebbadi & Belavadi Village, Kasaba Hobli, Srirangapattana Taluk, Mandya District and planning authority has approved the layout plan bearing No. BMICAPA (24)/RESIDENTIAL LAYOUT, HEBADI, HAMPAPURA, BELAVADI/68/2010-11. dated: 03-07-2010

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property an extent of 2 Acres 16 Guntas of converted land in Survey No.166/1A, Pai, situated at Hampapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Sirangapattana Taluk, Mandya District and converted from agricultural into non-agricultural residential purpose vide Official Memorandum bearing No.ALN464/2008-09 dated : 28-10-2009 passed by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Mandya District.

SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY
(Subject Matter of the Sale Deed)

All that piece and parcel property Residential Villa Plot No.589, Mellapura Village Panchayat Khatha No.254/40/589 formed in schedule B Property situated at Hampapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Srirangapatna Taluk, Mandya District, Karnataka State in the developed Residential Villas Layout known as **"NICE VISTAS"** developed on the entire Schedule "A" property, Measuring an extent of East to West: 12.19 meters North to South: 22.86 meters measuring in all : 278.66 square meters and bounded on: **East by :** 10 meter wide road, **West by :** Plot No.554, **North by :** Plot No.588, **South by :** Plot No.590.

L. VEENA, Advocate
No.12, 2nd B Main, RHCS Layout,
Annapoorneshwarinagar,
Bangalore-560091. Date: 16/02/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that my client **Sri. N.P. MUNIKRISHNAPPA** S/o Late. Narayanappa, aged about 50 years R/at. No. 820, Navajeevan Nilaya, 1st Cross, Coconut Garden, T.Dasarahalli, Bangalore - 560 057, had negotiated to purchase the Schedule properties Item 1 and 2 mentioned below from **Mrs. REHAMETH UNNISSA BEGUM** D/o Late. B.P. Abdul Khadhar, **Mrs. DILDAR BEGUM** W/o D/o Late. B.P. Abdul Khadhar, **Mr. MUKTHAR AHAMED** S/o Late. B.P. Abdul Khadhar and his daughters resident No. 864/A, 1st Cross, Coconut Garden Road, Coconut Garden, T.Dasarahalli, Bangalore -560 057, Any person/s claiming any manner of right, title, and interest over the schedule properties Item No. 1 and 2 called upon to lodge such claim/s or objection with the under signed in writing with supporting documents with in 7 (Seven) days from the date of publication. If no such objection or claims are received within the said period failing which my client will proceed to purchase the schedule properties same as "Free from claims of whatsoever manner" and no claims shall be entrained later.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

Item No. 1: All that piece and parcel of property bearing Khatha No. 1853, carved in converted Sy.No. 13/3A of T. Dasarahalli Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, presently comes under BBMP Ward No. 15, BBMP. Khatha No. 1853, measuring Eastern Side : 39 ft., Western Side : 46 ft, North to South : 43 ft, totally measuring 1827.5 Square and bounded on : East by : Kaneshumari Property No. 1262; West by : Property belongs to HMJ Residency; North by : Property belongs to HMJ Residency; South by : Passage;

Item No. 2: All that piece and parcel of property bearing Khatha No. 1262, carved in converted Sy.No. 13/3A of T. Dasarahalli Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, presently comes under BBMP Ward No. 15, BBMP. Khatha No. 13/3A, measuring Eastern Side : 46.5 ft., Western Side : 43.5 ft, Northern Side : 69 ft and Southern Side : 76 ft, totally measuring 3262.5 Square and bounded on : East by : Road; West by : Property bearing Khatha No. 1853 ; North by : Property belongs to HMJ Residency; South by : Passage.

V.L. RAGHU, Advocate
No. 792/1, 1st Floor, C.M. Nivas,
T. Dasarahalli, Tumkur Road,
Bangalore-560 057.
Mobile No. 9980311276
Place: Bangalore Date: 16.02.2024

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice dated 14.02.2024.

The Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General Services), Palakkad Division, acting for and on behalf of The President of India, invites E-Tenders through official portal of Indian Railways from experienced contractors for the under mentioned works.

Sl. No.	Tender Notice No.	Name of Work	Approx. cost (Rs.)	Date of Opening
1	J-E-34-2023-24-W	Implementation Of Rooftop Solar PV System of various capacities At Various Locations of Palakkad Division, Southern Railway (Total Capacity 300kWp) With the Objective of Generating and Supplying Energy to Railway Installations through RESCO mode	4,27,01,506.98/-	12/03/2024 11:00 hrs
2	J-E-35-2023-24-W	MAQ-Infrastructure for Setting up of Maintenance facilities for Vande Bharat trains at Mangaluru Central - Electrical Arrangements	9,94,187/-	12/03/2024 11:00 hrs
3	J-E-36-2023-24-W	SRR-Expansion of Running Room for additional 20 beds each at SRR and MAJN of PGT division-Electrical arrangements	6,84,924/-	12/03/2024 11:00 hrs
4	J-E-37-2023-24-W	PGTN-Provision of one camtech pit lines, two stabling lines, shunting neck, sicklines and modifications to yard arrangements - Electrical Arrangements.	51,05,472/-	12/03/2024 11:00 hrs

Complete details & Tender Document will be available at **http://www.ireps.gov.in** Corrigendum if any; will be notified in website only and it will not be published in newspaper.

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BELAGAVI URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Belagavi. Fax/Phone No: 0831-2470342, 2470257 E-mail: belagavibuda@gmail.com

No: BUDA/PWD/E-TENDER/2023-24/3966 Date: 16-02-2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement Portal)

Commissioner, Belagavi Urban Development Authority (BUDA), Belagavi invites tenders from eligible Agencies for the works taken under Belagavi Urban Development Authority Grants works in Standard Tender Document through e-Procurement - 02 Portal for further details visit online Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The details of the time table of tenders are as follows.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Indent No.	Estimated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)	Work Execution Period
1	Development of Residential Layout Scheme No. 61 in Kanbargi Belagavi - Boundary Fixation for Layout.	INDENT 16	21.00	25,000/-	3 Months
2	Development of Residential Layout Scheme No. 61 in Kanbargi Belagavi - Embackment Work for Layout.	INDENT 17	90.00	90,000/-	3 Months

Tender Form Fee as per e-Procurement Portal:

1) Last Date for Submission of Tender Queries: **12-03-2024 upto 4.30 PM. 2)** Last Date for Submission of Tender: **19-03-2024 upto 4.30 PM. 3)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid on **20-03-2024 at 5.00 PM. 4)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid will be intimated in e-Procruement Portal. **5)** Below mentioned Officers of Authority have all the rights to Accept or Reject the Tender without giving any reason. **6)** GST Amount will be paid to the Tendered Amount Seperately.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Belagavi Urban Development Auhority
Belagavi

Sd/-
Commissioner
Belagavi Urban Development Auhority
Belagavi

DIPR/Belagavi/1153/Adverto/2023-24

Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited (Encore ARC)

acting in its capacity as the Trustee of EARC - Bank - 005 -Trust

Encore ARC Corporate Office Address: 5th Floor, Plot No. 137, Sector 44, Gurugram 122002, Haryana

Public Notice for e-Auction

e-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("SARFAESI Act") read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & 9 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("Rules").

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to Indian Bank to secure dues in the loan account since assigned to Encore ARC (Secured Creditor) acting in its capacity as the Trustee of EARC-Bank-005-TRUST, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Encore ARC , will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on 26.03.2024 at 11:00 a.m., for recovery of outstanding dues of Rs.8,56,31,358/- (Rupees Eight Crores Fifty Six Lakhs Thirty One Thousand Three Hundred and Fifty Eight only) as on 30.11.2023 together with further interest w.e.f. 01.12.2023 at contractual rate till recovery of outstanding amount and other costs, charges etc. due to the Encore ARC (Secured creditor), from Borrowers & Guarantors viz. **M/s. Embrolines, Through Partners and Guarantors / Mortgagors (i) Mrs. V. Karuppammal (ii) Mrs. S. Anbarasi (iii) Mr. S.V. Shanmugam (iv) Mr.S.V. Sibhisudhan (v) Mr.S.V. Sugidharan and (vi) Ms. S.V.Chini Sugana**

The description of the mortgaged immovable properties, the details of Reserve Price for the Secured Assets, the Earnest Money Deposit & Minimum Increment Amount in Bidding Process are as under:

Item Sr No.	Name of Account	Description of Property	Reserve Price (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (In Rs.)	Increment in Bidding Process (In Rs.)
1	M/s. Embrolines	In Tiruppur Registration District, in Thottipalayam Sub-Registration district, in Tiruppu Taluk, in Thotipalayam Village Door No.1198, Palanisamy Nagar, Vengamedu Road, Pichampalayam, Tirupur – 641 602. In S. Nos.291/1A, Acres 2.00 Land with building together with Pattas, 733-810 bounded as-North of - East-West Road in S.F.No.291, West of - the landed property in S.F.293, South of - The Property belonging to S.Radhakrishnan & Others, East of - The Property belonging to S.Radhakrishnan & Others	7,10,00,000/- (Rupees Seven Crores Ten Lakhs Only)	71,00,000/- (Rupees Seventy One Lakhs Only)	1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Only)

Date of Inspection of Secured Assets	08/03/2024 between 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Last Date of Submission of online Bid	Before 3.00 PM on 25/03/2024
Date & time of e-Auction	26/03/2024 at 11.00 AM to 1:00 PM with unlimited extensions of 5 minutes each as per Terms & Conditions mentioned below. Auction Website: https://bankeauctions.com

In case the e-Auction date is declared public holiday then the date will be automatically extended to the very next working day.

Since Encore ARC is acting in its capacity as Trustee of EARC-Bank – 005 -Trust only, any reference of its name in this Public Notice should be construed accordingly.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Encore ARC's website i.e. https://www.encorearc.com and https://bankeauctions.com

Interested bidders may contact Authorised officer of Encore ARC Mr.B. M.Nagaraju Mobile No.89399 56230 , Mr. K.Nagendran on mobile no. No. 91762 91717 and Mr. Sabari Sundar on mobile no. 7904918124 for any further information / query.

Date:16.02.2024
Place: Chennai

B M Nagaraju
Authorised Officer
Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited

M BG-BGE

PROPERTYPLUS
HOMES AND REAL ESTATE NEWS

thehindu.com/features/homes-and-gardens
THE HINDU

Pixels meet Gond art at ID 2024

Embellished with gems, Kunaal Kyhaan Seolekar's collaboration with Jaipur Rugs celebrates the wild

DECOR

Sujatha Shankar Kumar

India Design ID 2024, currently underway in Delhi, is an immersive experience indeed. Among the over 130 homegrown and international luxury interior brands, there are unusual examples like Ankon Mitra's 'On Paper Of Paper'. In collaboration with Apparao Galleries, this exhibition features the most impressive paper works from over 70 artists across India, from sculptors to architects.

Another unexpected showcase is Jaipur Rugs' '*Jaanwar*', a collection of floor rugs in collaboration with award-winning designer, Kunaal Kyhaan Seolekar. In this case, the organic designs break the mould of rectangular formats, and are expressed as biomorphic forms that are a medley of tribal art, animal skin patterns and mythological references. The designs evoke the raw spirit of nature and organisms with stippled patterns, stripes and dashes, primarily with a Gond art typology in modern geometrical renditions. These are sweeping statement pieces, carefully handcrafted in natural shades – from red, vermilion and ochre to the blue and green palette.

Why *Jaanwar*? The Hindi word, which means living creature, is also a reference to the wild or untamed. It is this raw quality that is evident in Kyhaan's latest experiment with Jaipur Rugs. The designer, who enjoys working across creative disciplines, brings his in-depth work as an architect, fashion designer, textile and interior designer to this collection. We find these playful elements to the versatile range of furniture and products under his brands KOY and KOYTOY, and his work at studioHAUS. "I have always used these forms. I work with every material – fibreglass, wood, textile and yarn," says Kyhaan, adding, "In these rugs, I've used the idea of pixels. It's like painting with texture. You don't only look at the print, you can feel the print."

A self-confessed "nature person", Kyhaan is fascinated by everything tropical, a core essence of the look and feel of the collection. The multidisciplinary designer who trained in architectural design at Parsons School, NY, says his first design was a rug. Recalling how he approached Yogesh Chaudhary and Nitin Shankar Mathur of Jaipur Rugs with a series of sketches, he says the collaboration followed soon after. Ornamentation is central to his aesthetic, and he admits he is obsessed with semi-precious stones and tribal jewellery. All of the rugs are handwoven in the categories of hand-tufted, hand-knotted and hand-knotted with stones.

The photography by Hansraj Dochaniya uses sites in Pushkar, Rajasthan, as the backdrop to bring out the indigenous flavour of the rugs. The campaign imagery pays homage to these tribal influences by incorporating the dance of the Saharias and the Bhil community from Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Yantra is showcased with the indigenous tribes parading, wearing the costume of a pink elephant. For Kyhaan, there is a sense of bringing the auspicious into your homes with this collection. He says, "Each rug in this is a talisman, an heirloom that is also a talisman."

The writer is a brand strategist with a background in design from SAIC and NID.

Circular economy in real estate

K. Satyanarayana

As the city skylines stretch upwards, India stands on the precipice of a transformative era in real estate. However, as construction booms, so does the waste associated with it. It is in this context that the concept of a circular economy emerges, promising a paradigm shift.

The circular economy is a regenerative economic system that aims to keep resources in use for as long as possible, extract maximum value from them, and then recover and regenerate products and materials at the end of their life cycle. At its core, the circular economy in real estate focuses on three principles: reducing, reusing, and recycling.

The approach ensures that waste is managed in the most environmentally friendly and resource-efficient manner. For example, instead of sending construction waste to landfills, stakeholders can separate and sort materials on-site for recycling or repurposing.

The concept of 'urban mining' has gained traction in the circular economy. It involves extracting resources from buildings, contributing to resource conservation, and reducing the demand for virgin materials.

Modular construction based on prefab or bio-based materials can enable easier disassembly and reconfiguration, allowing buildings to be adapted to changing needs and extending their lifespan.

The writer is Managing Director, Starworth Infrastructure and Construction Ltd.

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PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/201201/003733 HOSA ROAD JUNCTION 5 MINS. BOSCH-ELECTRONIC CITY ₹ 50.00 L - 1.15 Cr*	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/309/PR/220223/005748 THANISANDRA 10 MINS. MANYATA TECH PARK ₹ 58.17 L - 1.02 Cr*	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/280222/004739 CHANDAPURA 10 MINS. BOMMASANDRA METRO ₹ 37.60 - 49.60 Lakhs*	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/290122/004660 SARJAPURA SARJAPUR - ATTIBELE ROAD ₹ 38.72 - 49.80 Lakhs*	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/446/PR/110722/005059 BEGUR 10 MINS. TO SILK BOARD ₹ 48.35 L - 1.16 Cr*	DODDAGUBBI NEAR HENNUR DECATHLON ₹ 53.30 L - 1.03 Cr.*

*T & C Apply

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BG-BGE

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಗೃಹ ಮಂಡಳಿ

ಗೃಹ ಆಯುಕ್ತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, 3ನೇ ಮತ್ತು 4ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಕಾವೇರಿ ಭವನ, ಕೆ.ಜಿ.ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560009 ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 080–22273511–16

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಗೃಮಂ/ಹಂಚಿಕೆ–8/ಬೇಡಿಕೆ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ:13.02.2024

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಗೃಹ ಮಂಡಳಿ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಮಿಂಚೇರಿ ಬಡಾವಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ **LIG, MIG, HIG-I, HIG-II** ವರ್ಗದ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯಿರುವ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಮತ್ತು ಆರಂಭಿಕ ಠೇವಣಿಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **30.03.2024** ರವರೆಗೆ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಮತ್ತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ **(website) https://www.khb.karnataka.gov.in** ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಗೃಹ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು,
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಗೃಹ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

DIPR/CP/3658/Zen/2023-24

Karnataka State

Office of the Executive Engineer, Shimoga Division, Shimoga

No.EE/PWD/Smg/TA/IFT-23/M-1/2023-24 Dtd:15-02-2024
Ref:1)EE/PWD/Smg/TA/IFT-23/2023-24 Dtd:31-01-2024

PQ Tender Notification

Tender invited thro' E-Procurement KPPP.karnataka.gov.in for the below the dates for downloading & submission for the Service works is postponed. For needful information please contact Office P.No. 08182-274942 and Helpdesk Ph Nos. 080-25501216/ 080-25501227)

SI.NO. 1. Service Tender: Empanelment for the work of structural design & preparation of drawings of different up coming projects carried out by P.W.D, Communications & Buildings (Central), Shimoga. (PWD/2023- 24/PREQUAL TENDER_NUMBER_2) **Indent No.:** (PWD/2023- 24/PREQUAL_TENDER_NUMBER_2) Service Tender **Tender documents down loading & submission dates:** 15-02-2024 to 22-02-2024
Tender documents Last date of Receipt: 22-02-2024

Sd/- EE, PW Dept Division, Shimoga

DIPR/smg/No.141/02/ksmca/23-24/1288

Government of Karnataka
(Public Works Department)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION BIDAR

No.: EE/PWD/DIVN/BDR/KKRDB/JE-5/2023-24/3323 Date : 12-2-2024

INVITATION FOR TENDERS

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer, PWD Division Bidar invites Tenders from eligible Tenderers for the WORK_INDENT No. **PWD/2023-24/BD/RD/OW/WORK_INDENT (General 07) 7741, 8226, 8424, 8187, 8436, 7127, 8684 (ST RESERVE 01) 8432. Amount put to tender for the works are Minimum Rs. 40.00 Lakhs & Maximum Rs. 420.00 Lakhs. Tender documents may be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of the Govt. of Karnataka Viz. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on 12-02-2024.** Tenders must be submitted through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal on or **before 16.00 hours on 20-02-2024.** Further any other information can be seen from the e-procurement portal or can be had from the undersigned.

NOTE : Turn over certificate without UDI Number will not be considered.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Bidar

GOVERNMENT OF KARANATAKA
Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department. Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal-583231
E-Mail:eemidnkst@rediffmail.com, P&F.No.08539:220054
No:EE/MI&GWDD/Koppal/PB/TP/2023-24/443
Dated: 13.02.2024

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal invites tenders from the eligible tenderers registered civil contractors as per standard bid documents from KW-3 on E-procurement portal for 10 no of tender works pertaining to Raichur district. The amount put to tender for the above mentioned work are in the range of 98.8 Lakhs to 99.00 lakhs. The tenderers may submit tenders for the mentioned work through E-procurement portal only. **Two cover** tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTTP act shall be followed.

For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours and all information regarding tenders can be had from website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address on or after 15-02-2024. Last date & time for receipt of tender is 22-02-2024 time 15.00 hours, Date & time for opening of technical bid 23-02-2024 time 16.00 hours, date and time for opening of financial bid 26-02-2024 time 11.00 hours (If technical bid sanction is accorded by the competent authority).

Sd/-Executive Engineer, MI and GWD Division, Koppal.
DIPR/Koppal/444/KSMCA/2023-24

Office of the Medical Superintendent ESI HOSPITAL, INDIRANAGAR

Bengaluru - 560 008.

No: E.S.I.H/INR/KITCHEN/23/2023-24/Call-2 Date: 15.02.2024

SHORT TERM RE-TENDER

Short term Re-Tender has been invited for Supply of Diet Items including Bread and Eggs for ESI Hospital, Indiranagar, Bengaluru - 560 008 for one year on rate contract basis.

Description of the Material	EMD
Tender for Supply of following Diet Items to ESI Hospital, Indiranagar, Bengaluru-08. 1. Soona Masoori Raw Rice Fine Quality 2. Too Dal Fine Quality 3. Sugar Fine Quality 4. Sambar Powder (Branded) 5. Tamarind (Seedless) Fine Quality 6. Sunflower Refind Oil (Branded) 7. Cristal Salt (Branded) 8. Coffee Power (Branded 80-20) 9. Green Mong Dal Fine Quality 10. Moong Dal Fine Quality 11. Red Cowpeas Black Eye Fine Quality 12. Jaggery Fine Quality 13. Bread 400 gms (Modern) 14. Egg (50-60 gms)	**Rs. 50,000/- (Fifty Thousand only)**

Tender Schedule: 1) Last date & time for receipt of tender through e-Procurement: **23.02.2024 at 4.00 p.m.** 2) Date & time of opening of tender - Technical Bid: **26.02.2024 at 11.30 a.m.** 3) Address of opening of tender: Office of the Medical Superintendent, ESI Hospital, Indiranagar, Bengaluru - 560 008. 4) Date fixed for Sample Submission : Will be intimated after the Opening the Technical Bid.

Other details can be obtained from the office of the above and e-Procurement website at https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-
Medical Superintendent
ESI Hospital, Indiranagar, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/3656/2023-24

Government of Karnataka

Minor Irrigation and Ground water Development Division, Chitradurga

NO.EE/MI&GWD DIV/CTA/PB1,2/TENDER NOTIFICATION: 15/2023-24/ DATE:14.02.2024

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (ONE-TWO COVER) KW-2, 3, 4 & KC-2

Item rate tender in two cover system as per rule 28 of KTPP act-2000 with latest amendments is invited from the eligible Class-I & II contractors Registered in PWD & Eligible Agency/ Consultancy for the following work through e-procurement portal. The tender documents may be downloaded from official website of Karnataka Government. Tender should be submitted through online in official e-procurement portal only. Tenders will be opened as per the guidelines of e-procurement portal. Eligibility of Contractors. Class-I & II Contractors Registered K. P.W.D Last Date & Time for enquiries about tender 22.02.2024 upto 5.30 P.M. Last Date for submission of Tenders 23.02.2024 upto 4.00 P.M. Date & Time of Opening of Tender (If possible) Technical Bid 26.02.2024 after 04.30 P.M. Finacial Bid 27.02.2024 after 10.30 AM

Name of work:- (1) CONSTRUCTION OF PROTECTION WALL TO HALLA NEAR KAKKARGOLLA VILLAGE IN DAVANAGERE TALUK DAVANAGERE DISTRICT /CALL-2 Amount put to tender in Lakhs:- 84.51 (2) CONSTRUCTION OF PROTECTION WALL TO HALLA NEAR SY NO 90/1 IN KODIHALLI VILLAGE IN DAVANAGERE TALUK DAVANAGERE DISTRICT (RESERVED FOR SC CATEGORY CONTRACTOR ONLY)/ CALL-2Amount put to tender in Lakhs:- 84.55 (3) CONSTRUCTION OF PROTECTION WALL TO HALLA NEAR SY NO 16 IN KODIHALLI VILLAGEIN DAVANAGERE TALUK DAVANAGERE DISTRICT (RESERVED FOR ST CATEGORY CONTRACTOR ONLY)/CALL- 2 Amount put to tender in Lakhs:- 84.59 (4) CONSTRUCTION OF PROTECTION WALL TO HALLA NEAR DAVANAGERE BETHURU BRIDGEIN DAVANAGERE TALUK DAVANAGERE DISTRICT (RESERVED FOR SC CATEGORY CONTRACTOR ONLY)/CALL-2 Amount put to tender in Lakhs:- 42.24 (5) CONSTRUCTION OF PROTECTION WALL TO HALLA NEAR B KALPANHALLI VILLAGE IN DAVANAGERE TALUK DAVANAGERE DISTRICT/CALL-2 Amount put to tender in Lakhs:- 84.55 (6) CONSTRUCTION OF PROTECTION WALL TO BASAPURA HALLA NEAR ANEKONDA VILLAGEIN DAVANAGERE TALUK DAVANAGERE DISTRICT/CALL-2 Amount put to tender in Lakhs:- 84.47

Note: Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-procurement website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from **15.02.2024** Tenders may be submitted along with EMD and tender fee (Mode of payment should be online only as prescribed in website). Amount mentioned in e-portal is final for the amount put to tender & the E.M.D. Additional Information regarding works may be obtained from the Division Office during office hours & from e-procurement help desk No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/575/2023-24 **Sd/-Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Divison, Chitradurga**

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PERSONAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I, THANKAMMA Mangalathil, D/o Antony aged about 59 years Residing at 103-Assumption Villa, Hennur Main Road, Hennur Cross, Bangalore North, Bangalore- 560043, do hereby declare that Thankamma Mangalathil and Thankamma Antony Mangalathil belong to me only and consider my name as Thankamma Mangalathil for all documents and transactions in future, vide affidavit dated 14-02-2024 before Notary Uday kumar. K, Bengaluru-560024

I, GRACE Thomas D/o Thomas aged about 70 years Residing at 103-Assumption Villa, Hennur Main Road, Hennur Cross, Bangalore North, Bangalore- 560043, do hereby declare that Grace Thomas and Gracekutty Karukapallil Thomas belong to me only and consider my name as Grace Thomas for all documents and transactions in future, vide affidavit dated 14-02-2024 before Notary Uday kumar. K, Bengaluru- 560024

I, CHANDY Saly D/o Chandy, aged about 51 years Residing at 103-Assumption Villa, Hennur Main Road, Hennur Cross, Bangbalore North, Bangalore- 560043, do hereby declare that Chandy Saly and Parambakathu Devasia Chandy Saly belong to me only and consider my name as Chandy Saly for all documents and transactions in future, vide affidavit dated 14-02-2024 before Notary Uday kumar. K, Bengaluru- 560024

I, ANILA Annamma D/o Joseph aged about 72 years Residing at 103-Assumption Villa, Hennur Main Road, Hennur Cross, Bangalore North, Bangalore- 560043, do hereby declare that Anila Annamma and Annamma Joseph Komputhukil belong to me only and consider my name as Anila Annamma for all documents and transactions in future, vide affidavit dated 14-02-2024 before Notary Uday kumar.K, Bengaluru- 560024

I, NITISH Nagesh Dande, S/o Nagesh Dande, R/a 103/16/2, 23rd Main, J.P.Nagar Phase, 5th Phase, Ayodhyanagar, Bangalore-560078 hereby state that both the names Nitish Nagesh Dande and Nitish Dande belongs to one and the same person i.e., me only vide affidavit dt: 14.02.2024 sworn before Notary Udaykumar.K, B'luru

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAJESHWARAN.K, S/o Kesa Velu, R/a No.582, 14th Cross old Bagalur Layout Bangalore North St.Thomas Town post, Bangalore-84 have changed my name to Mohammed Rashid vide affidavit dt: 16.02.2024 sworn before Notary C.V.Earappa, B'lore

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 72nd ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-73)
O.S. NO. 25448/2021
Hg. 11.03.2024

Between
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its registered office at Mythee Centre, No. 4, 101 Hosur Road Bommanahalli, Bangalore - 560 068
Represented by its Manager: Sri Pramodh Gurumallappa, S/o. Gurumallappa B
...Plaintiff

And
Sri Chava Venkata Srinivasarao ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Sri Chava Venkata Srinivasarao,
S/o. Sri Ramarao Chava,
No. 39/17, 3rd Floor, 6th Cross 4th Main, Venkatapura Main Road, Koramangala 1st Block, Bangalore- 560 034

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of **Rs. 4,69,281/- (Rupees Four Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Two Hundred and Eighty One Only)** together with interest @ 13.25% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble 72nd Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH - 73) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on **11/03/2024** at **11:00 a.m.** failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this **19/01/2024.**

BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE COURT
DEPUTY REGISTRAR
CITY CIVIL COURT,
MAYOHALL UNIT,
BANGALORE

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
SA Associates,
No. 10, 7th Cross,
Victoria Layout,
Bangalore- 560 047

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LIX ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-60)
O.S No. 5841/2023

Between :
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at, Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara-390 007, and Branch office at: 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068 through its authorised representative
Mr. Harish E ...Plaintiff
And :
Mr. N. Mohammed Shuaib ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :
Mr. N. Mohammed Shuaib,
S/o. Noorulla,
Aged About 28 Years,
R/at. No. 25/1, Hains Road Cross, Nehrupuram, Near Bus Stop, Bangalore- 560001.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 9,20,454/-** along with interest at the rate of **24% P.A.** against you, and you are summoned to appear before the **LIX Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H-60),** in person or by a pleader, on the day of **04/06/2024** at **11:00 AM** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 7th day of February, 2024 at Bangalore.

By order of the Court
Assistant Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court,
Bengaluru.

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road,
Bengaluru -01.

IN THE COURT OF THE 72nd ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-73)
O.S. NO. 25439/2023

Between
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Registered office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400 051 and its branch office at Mythree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560 068
Represented by its Collection Manager and POA Holder Sri. Pramodh Gurumallappa B
...Plaintiff

And
Sri. Shreekanth S A
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Sri Shreekanth S A
S/o Sri Sangappa, Aged about 32 years, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd., Mahalakshmi, Bangalore- 560 086

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of **Rs. 9,23,656/- (Rupees Nine Lakh Twenty Three Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Six Only)** together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble 72nd Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH - 73) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on **23rd day of March, 2024** at **11:00 A.M.** failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this **08/02/2024.**

BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE COURT
DEPUTY REGISTRAR,
CITY CIVIL COURT,
MAYOHALL UNIT,
BANGALORE

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
SA Associates,
No. 10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore- 560 047

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G2

E-Auction for leasing of Parcel Space, Parking & Out of home Advertisement/Publicity

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites bidders for E-Auctions on the following Dates:

1. Catering & MPS : **20-02-2024, 21-02-2024, 26-02-2024 & 27-02-2024.**
2. Parcels: **22-02-2024 & 23-02-2024**
3. Advertising and ATM Contract on : **23-02-2024, 26-02-2024, 27-02-2024 & 29-02-2024.**
4. Parking & Pay and Use : **21-02-2024 & 28-02-2024**
5. Emergency Medical Room: **28-02-2024**

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager
Bengaluru

PUB/692/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

Government of Maharashtra
Public Works Division, Parbhani

E-Tender Notice No. 51 of 2023-2024

Online Tender (e-tenders) in B-1 for 08 works are invited by the Executive Engineer P.W. Division, Parbhani (Phone No 02452-222708) on Government of Maharashtra Electronic Tender Management system **https://maharashtra.etenders.in/** from registered contractors in appropriate class with Public Works Department of Maharashtra State.

The details can be viewed and download online directly from the Goverment of Maharashtra e-tendering portal https://mahatenders.gov.in or **www.mahapwd.com**

(Note :- For Further changes in this Notice Please check above website)

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Public Works Division,
Parbhani

DGIPR/2023-2024/8389

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & CO-OPERATIVE

(Directorate Of Soil Conservation)
Jharkhand Agriculture Machinery testing & Training Center (JAMTTC)
4th Floor Room No. – 403, Krishi Bhawan Kanke Road ranchi-834008
E-mail-edjamttc@gmail.com, Website- www.jamttc.org.

CORRIGENDUM

Tender notice PR 317415 Agriculture 23-24_D date 31.01.2024

Selection of Third-Party Assessment Agency (TPAA) For Monitoring & Evaluation of State Mechanization Scheme titled as "Distribution of Agriculture Equipment to Farmers, Women SHG Etc." implemented/ implementing During Financial Year 2020-21 to 2024-25 and onwards

In continuations of the implementation of **Tender notice PR 317415 Agriculture 23-24_D date 31.01.2024** a **Pre-Bid** meeting was held on 12.02.2024. The decision taken the following amendment is incorporated & same amendment has been incorporated as a part of the tender document published on the website www.jamttc.org

Read the following amendment/incorporation with both Para no 10 & 11 page no 9 **Registered MSEs may be exempted from document fee & EMD only with the provision of "Jharkhand Procurement Policy 2014"**

Rest all the term & condition will be same as published in Tender notice PR 317415 Agriculture 23-24_D date 31.01.2024

Sd/-
Executive Director (Ag Engg) JAMTTC Ranchi

PR 319144 (Agriculture)23-24*D

Jharkhand BijliVitran Nigam Limited

(CIN : U40108JH2013SGC001702)
Regd. Office : Engineering Building, H.E.C., Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004,
Telephone :-0651-2400799 & Fax : 0651-2400799 https://www.jbvnl.co.in Email- cecr2018@gmail.com

3rd EXTENSIONNotice
NIT No. - 348/PR/JBVNL/2023-24

E-tender for selection of full turnkey contractor for development of distribution infra structure in Electric supply Circle ,Dhanbad for an estimated cost Rs 282.32 Crores under Loss Reduction of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) sanction by Ministry of Power, GoI and approved by GoJ is hereby extended as per below given revised calendar of events

SN	Details of Work	
I	Development of distribution infrastructure like replacement of LT Conductor to AB Cable Erection of LT & 11kv line, installation of New DTR ,etc	
2	Estimated Cost- Rs 282.32 Crores(all inclusive)	
3	**Calendar of Events :**	
I	**Last Date / Time for receipt of bids(online)**	22.02.2024at15:00Hrs
II	**Last Date / Time for receipt of offline documents in office of GM(Coml.)**	22.02.2024upto17:00Hrs
III	**Date and Time for Opening of Technical bid**	23.02.2024at17:00Hrs

The tender documents with detailed conditions can be obtained through web site http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in and should upload all relevant documents as mentioned in the tender document only through online e-tender portal/website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

PR No. 316180
Save Energy ,Save Nation for Better tomorrow

Sd/-
General Manager (Coml.)

PR.NO.319233 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd(23-24):D

SANJEEVINI-Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society

Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Department
Office of the Mission Director, Sanjeevini-KSRLPS
4, 2nd Floor, MYSUGAR Building, J.C. Road, Near Town Hall, Bengaluru-560002. E-mail: nrlmkarnataka@gmail.com

No. KSRLPS/Proc/Gen/03/2023-PRCT-KSRLPS/Call-2 **Date: 15.02.2024**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PLATFORM

Selection of Competent Bidders to Setup/Installation of Marketing Kiosk for Women Self Help Groups for Providing them fix Market Place to Sell their Products at Bangalore Divisions in Karnataka State under Sanjeevini-KSRLPS Call-2

Sanjeevini-KSRLPS is inviting Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Competent Bidders to Setup/Installation of Marketing Kiosk for Women Self Help Groups for Providing them fix Market Place to Sell their Products at Bangalore Divisions in Karnataka State under Sanjeevini-KSRLPS. The following RFP is published through "e-Procurement Portal" on 16.02.2024. Kindly refer the tender document for scope of work.

Sl. No.	Name of the Tender	Tender Ref. No. through e-proc	Procuring Entity
1	Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Competent Bidders to Setup/Installation of Marketing Kiosk for Women Self Help Groups for Providing them fix Market Place to Sell their Products at Bangalore Division in Karnataka State under Sanjeevini-KSRLPS	KSRLPS/2023-24/SE0019/CALL-2	Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society

The detailed notification regarding eligibility and other details can be obtained by logging on https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in The last date for receipt of RFP is 28.02.2024 before 5:30 pm.

Sd/-
Mission Director
National Livelihood Mission
Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/3653/AKAR/2023-24

GOVT. OF MAHARASHTRA

Public Works (North) Division, Pune

New Administrative Building, First Floor, Pune-411 001.
e-mail- northpune.ee@mahapwd.gov.in Phone No. 020-26123305

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 92 FOR 2023-2024 (Online)

The Executive Engineer, Public Works (North) Division, Pune - 411 001 (Telephone No. **020-26123305**) invites tender notice in "C" Tenders for following work through e-tendering process who fulfills terms and condinion mentioned in tender document.

Bid document can be download from website https://mahatenders.gov.in Right to reject any or all online bid of work without assigning any reasons thereof is reserved by competent authority. Conditional Tender will not be accepted.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost Rs.lakh	Earnest Money Rs.	Type of e-tender form	Cost of e-tender form fee Rs.	Time Limit
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Construction of a Major Bridge with approach road on Bhimashankar Wada Khed SH 103 Satkarsthal Arbujwadi VR 152 to Vadgaon Patole Road VR 55 connecting MDR 15 on Bhima River Tal. Khed, Dist. Pune	Rs. 582.00 lakh	2,91000/-	"C" (Contractors Own Design & Drawings)	3,540/- (Non-Refundable) (E-Payment Gateway)	18 Months

E-Tender Time Table

1	E-tender Document Sale & Bid Submission End Date and Time	20.02.2024 from 10.00 hrs.	05.03.2024 upto 18.15 hrs.
2	Place, Date & Time of Pre-bid Meeting	In the office of the Chief Engineer, P.W. Region, Central Building, Pune on or before dt. 27.02.2024 at 12.00 hrs.	
3	Place, Date & Time of Bid Opening of Technical & Financial Bid	Dt. 08.03.2024 at 11.00 hrs. in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, P.W. Circle, Pune (If Possible)	

All Information about e-tender are available in the following web sites-
1) www.mahapwd.gov.in (only Tender Notice)
2) https://mahatenders.gov.in
(Any Change in tender notice will be informed on the web sites)
3) Notice Board of Executive Engineer, P.W.North Division, Pune
(Note - Tenderers Bidding Capacity shall be ascertained as per Post Qualification Criteria)

Sd/-
(R.Y.Patil)
Executive Engineer,
Public Work (North) Division,
Pune 411 001.

DGIPR/2023-2024/8369

From Page One

Siddaramaiah presents welfare-centric Budget

A sum of ₹1,20,373 crore was allocated for various welfare programmes.

Targeting Centre

In a over a three-hour-long speech replete with criticism of the Centre, Mr. Siddaramaiah defended the five guarantees and hit out at the Central government's "anti-people" policies for the last one decade, which, he said, had led to widening inequality, concentration of wealth in few hands, and "crony capitalism".

The State government had undertaken the work left undone by the Centre which had abdicated its responsibility, he charged.

The Chief Minister's tirade against the Centre left the BJP and the Janata Dal (S) fuming, and both staged a walkout from the House terming the Budget as "empty".

Spending on guarantees

Mr. Siddaramaiah, stating that the guarantee schemes were not an "election gimmick", hit out at the Opposition for their criticism, saying that they rest on the soaring aspirations of the people. The Budget proposed to spend ₹52,000 crore on five guarantees - Shakti, Gruha Jyothi, Gruha Lakshmi, Yuva Nidhi, and Anna Bhagya.

The Chief Minister justified the government's "welfare approach" by citing principles advocated by B.R. Ambedkar and Basaveshwara. Apparently referring to "Modi guarantees", he found an irony in the same people who criticised guarantees as "Bitti Bhagyas" had now "stolen" them and were trying to implement them as their own. For the first time, the Preamble of the Constitution was used as the front cover page of the Budget book.

Guarantees ensured an average income of ₹50,000 to ₹55,000 to each family every year, which would reduce inequality and bring prosperity and dignity to lives of vulnerable people, said the Chief Minister.

The Budget displayed an 18% increase in GST and 12% growth in State-own taxes, which were largely owing to positive effects of guarantees by increasing the disposable income in the hands of the people. Continuing his criticism of the Centre, Mr. Siddaramaiah took a dig at the Narendra Modi-led government for "unscientific" implementation of GST that caused loss of ₹59,294 crore to the State during 2017-2024.

He criticised the Centre for meeting out injustice to the State in the devolution of taxes, cesses, and surcharges (₹45,322 crore during 2017-24) and non-release of drought relief.

For Bengaluru, some of the infrastructure initiatives in the Budget were the repositioning of the peripheral ring road as Bengaluru Business Corridor to decongest traffic to be developed at a cost of ₹27,000 crore on PPP model, a 250-metre-high Skydeck in the city, and permitting shops and establishments to remain open till 1 a.m. in Bengaluru and 10 other city corporations to boost trade and commerce.

The Budget proposed to bring out eight new policies and they are: Skill Policy, Gram Panchayat-SHG Convergence Policy, Green Hydrogen Policy, Industrial Policy, Textile Policy, Global Capability Centres Policy, AVGC-XR Policy, and Tourism Policy.

Of the total expenditure, the revenue expenditure was estimated at ₹2,90,531 crore and capital expenditure estimated at ₹55,877 crore. The fiscal deficit was estimated at ₹82,981 crore, which was 2.95% of GSDP and the total outstanding liabilities of the State was estimated to reach ₹6,65,095 crore in 2024-25, which is 23.68% of GSDP. The estimated receipts, including loans, was estimated at ₹3,68,674 crore, in 2024-25.

The Chief Minister said: "Though I have presented a revenue deficit Budget, I have increased the allocation for welfare programmes ... I am confident of achieving a revenue surplus after two years."

Irked by criticism of Centre, Opposition protests inside the House and outside

The Oppn. erupted in protest as the CM took potshots at the Modi govt. and later staged a walkout

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As Chief Minister Siddaramaiah presented the Budget for 2024-25 on Friday, in a speech peppered with critical remarks against the NDA government at the Centre, alleging that "injustice" had been done to the State in devolution of taxes, the BJP and Janata Dal (S) members staged a walkout and staged a protest.

BJP and JD(S) legislators protesting against the State Budget in front of Kengal Hanumanthaiya's statue on the Vidhana Soudha premises in Bengaluru on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

BJP members had planned to protest in the Assembly during the Budget and had reportedly carried placards, but were not allowed to carry them inside.

The Opposition benches erupted in protest as the Chief Minister criticised the Union government and soon they staged a walkout and BJP MLAs staged a protest outside.

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok termed it as a "bogus Budget" and said the Chief Minister, unable to present a good Budget, had baselessly blamed the Union government.

He said more than any other "bhagya", Mr. Siddaramaiah had given a "loan bhagya" of over ₹44,000 to every citizen. He said the Budget lacked focus and was "anti-people".

Former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who presented the Budget in 2023-24, said the Budget did not make substantial allocations for agriculture and irrigation, and for north Karnataka.

"While the Budget shows Mr. Siddaramaiah has borrowed over ₹25,000 crore more than previous year, capital expenditure of the State has only gone up by just over ₹1,000 crore, which only means the government has been raising loans and spending it on unproductive causes," he said, adding there had been a shortfall in tax collection for 2023-24 and to cover this up, Mr. Siddaramaiah had told many lies in an attempt to deflect the blame on the Union government.

JD(S) State president H.D. Kumaraswamy said the Budget lacked credibility and described it as a "Naale Baa" (Come tomorrow) Budget.

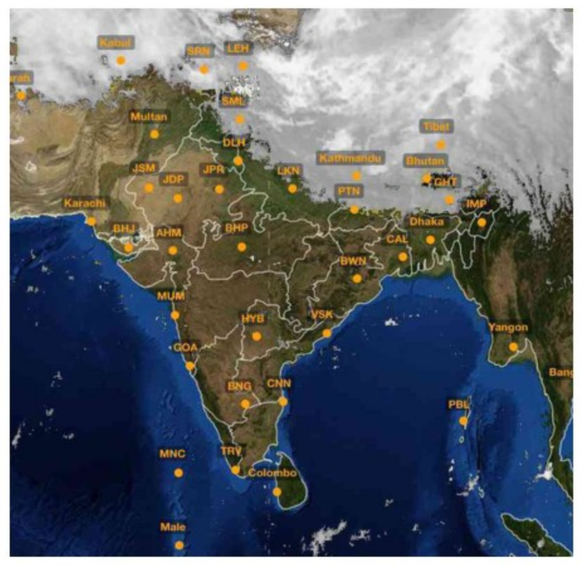
"The government seems to have not come out of the euphoria around guarantee schemes. Even in the second Budget presented by the government, they still are only offering guarantee schemes and there is precious little apart from that," he said.

Singing song

Interestingly, the Opposition in their protest sang the Upendra-starrer Kannada film song "Enilla, enilla" (there is nothing, nothing), which has gone viral recently, to make that the point that the Budget was "devoid of substance."

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan, Muzaffarabad, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya. Dense fog conditions likely in isolated pockets over Sikkim and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	29.4	16.8	Kozhikode	—	36.4	25.6
Ahmedabad	—	32.2	18.9	Kurnool	—	36.1	19.8
Aizawl	—	27.2	12.7	Lucknow	—	27.0	12.9
Allahabad	—	27.1	14.0	Madurai	—	35.2	23.5
Bengaluru	—	31.4	28.2	Mangaluru	—	35.4	23.6
Bhopal	—	29.8	15.2	Mumbai	—	34.4	21.1
Bhubaneswar	—	33.0	19.2	Mysuru	—	32.8	17.0
Chandigarh	—	26.1	9.3	New Delhi	—	26.0	7.3
Chennai	—	31.8	24.5	Patna	—	27.1	14.0
Coimbatore	—	32.8	20.8	Port Blair	—	31.0	24.1
Dehradun	—	25.9	9.8	Puducherry	—	32.2	22.8
Gangtok	—	15.6	7.9	Pune	—	35.0	19.4
Goa	—	35.7	22.6	Raipur	—	32.4	21.0
Guwahati	—	28.4	13.5	Ranchi	—	26.7	13.5
Hubballi	—	34.0	19.0	Shillong	2	18.5	8.5
Hyderabad	—	33.0	17.0	Shimla	—	19.0	8.2
Imphal	—	27.2	9.8	Srinagar	—	18.5	-1.6
Jaipur	—	27.6	12.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.5	24.8
Kochi	—	33.8	25.2	Tiruchi	—	33.7	22.4
Kohima	—	16.9	7.8	Vijayawada	—	32.8	19.2
Kolkata	—	28.0	19.8	Visakhapatnam	—	31.0	21.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	4	22	28	200	150	
Bengaluru	10	17	23	88	118	
Chennai	4	39	62	138	140	
Delhi	24	146	84	293	283	
Hyderabad	3	35	40	45	118	
Kolkata	36	60	28	167	133	
Lucknow	7	68	53	245	185	
Mumbai	—	62	70	310	237	
Pune	104	141	112	130	119	
Visakhapatnam	11	38	18	104	139	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Dholpur, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 350 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Vijayapura, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 39

Air Quality Code: Poor, Moderate, Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

One more dies in jumbo attack in Wayanad

The Hindu Bureau
KALPETTA

An employee of the Kuruva Dweep eco-tourism centre in Wayanad who was attacked by a wild elephant, succumbed to his injuries on Friday. The deceased, Paul, 52, of Pakkom, near Pulpally was a temporary guide at the centre.

The incident occurred around 9.30 a.m. when he was on duty at the centre. Though Paul was rushed to the Government Medical College Hospital at Mananthavady and to Kozhikode, he succumbed to his injuries. Preliminary reports revealed that internal injuries were the cause of death. An autopsy would be performed on Saturday.

The BJP, UDF, and the LDF called for a separate hartal on Saturday.

Making of the brew

Hard work: Plantation workers spread Robusta coffee (*Coffea canephora*) berries to dry in the sun in Hassan district of Karnataka. Rising temperatures and erratic weather patterns have led to reduction in crop yield. GETTY IMAGES

Drama in KU Senate as LDF opposes Governor's nominee

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Senate members nominated by Governor Arif Mohammed Khan outside Kerala University .

High drama unfolded at the Kerala University Senate meeting on Friday as it witnessed the unusual participation of Higher Education Minister R. Bindu for the discussion on nominating a representative to the Vice-Chancellor selection committee.

While the Left Democratic Front (LDF)-backed members, who constitute the majority in the Senate, opposed Governor Arif Mohammed Khan's directive, pro-United Democratic Front (UDF) members and those nominated by the Governor proposed separate candidates to be chosen as the university's nominee. The meeting also saw the Minister briefly engaging in an argument with Vice-Chancellor in-charge Mohanan Kunnummal over its chairmanship.

The special meeting, convened to discuss the single-point agenda, recorded an attendance of 92 members, including the Vice-Chancellor and the Minister. The LDF ensured a majority by ensuring that 64 of its members reported for the meeting.

Fearing the possibility of protests by the Students Federation of India (SFI) as seen at Calicut University, 13 of the newly nominated members, supposedly backed by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), reached the Senate hall around two hours before the meeting.

The Thiruvananthapuram City police brought the Kerala University headquarters under a tight security blanket in anticipation of untoward incidents.

Soon after Ms. Bindu read out the agenda for the meeting, the LDF members highlighted its purported illegality and moved a motion to call off the discussion. The Minister soon declared the resolution as passed and announced the meeting to have concluded.

However, this was contested by Prof. Kunnummal, who reasoned that he was the chairperson of the meeting. However, Ms. Bindu stood her ground and claimed that she was empowered by the University Act to preside over Senate meetings in her capacity as Pro Chancellor.

Nonetheless, the UDF members proposed the name of the former Vice-Chancellor of Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit M.C. Dileep Kumar, while the Governor's nominees recommended former Vice-Chancellor of the Kerala University of Health Sciences M.K.C. Nair as the representative to the selection committee.

Prof. Kunnummal said he would not be able to nominate any of the two names in the absence of a majority vote or consensus. He would, however, apprise Raj Bhavan of the developments that unfolded at the meeting, he said.

INBRIEF

Formulate policy to manage man-animal conflict, says HC

The Kerala High Court on Friday asked the State government to think about formulating a comprehensive policy to deal with man-animal conflict in the State. Justice Devan Ramachandran, while hearing a case relating to wild boar attacks on humans, observed that the government should formulate a comprehensive plan for the management of man-animal conflicts as permitted under the Wildlife Protection Act. The court said that unless the plan was formulated immediately, it would be difficult to deal with the situation in a few years from now.

HC noted that killing and culling of animals could never be panacea for the issue. The authorities could not take the situation lightly. The man-animal conflict in tourists places such as Wayanad would send a wrong signal to the world. The government pleader submitted that a comprehensive policy to deal with the increasing instances of man-animal conflict had not been put in place except in certain specific cases.

Lender tries to kill boy after parents fail to repay loan

The Hindu Bureau
NANDYAL

A moneylender allegedly attempted to kill a boy after his parents reportedly failed to repay their loan in Nandyal district in Andhra Pradesh on Friday.

Bhoopal and his wife borrowed money from several people through a woman Venkata Lakshmamma, but failed to repay. Later, the woman approached a person Sudhakar, who kidnapped their son.

He reached Vonipenta forest area, strangulated him and left the spot. However, passersby admitted him to the GH. The parents shifted him to a hospital in Kurnool.

Elephant calf rescued from well in Ernakulam

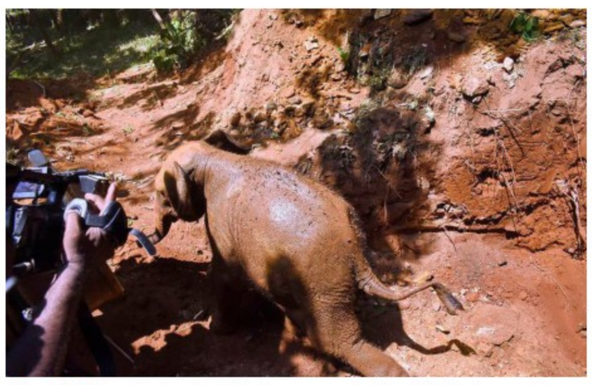
The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

A nearly four-year-old elephant calf that accidentally fell into an open well on Friday in the Kalady forest range of Malayattoor Forest Division, was rescued.

Rescue operations began a few hours after the forest officials mobilised their workforce and machines. Earth was dug using an excavator to create a pathway for the animal to walk out of the well.

The calf was safe as there was not much water inside the well. The animal walked through the pathway to safety, said a senior forest official.

The rubber plantation is located close to the forest area. It's also an elephant range area occupied by the herd, the official added.



Big relief: An elephant calf being rescued after it fell into a well near Malayattoor in Ernakulam on Friday. PTI

A 15-member herd was waiting for the calf nearly two kilometres away from the well. The rescued calf was seen moving towards the herd. The forest officials were tracking movement of the calf to ensure that it reunites with the herd, the official said.

Forest officials from the Kodanad and Malayattoor Forest ranges, Fire and Rescue Services personnel and veterinarians were part of the rescue mission.

Brave new world

India must invest in fundamental research to develop reliable drugs

Expectations are high that a free trade agreement involving India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is close to fruition. However, a bone of contention relates to intellectual property rights, and has persisted as an issue since 2008. Switzerland and Norway, which are prominent members of EFTA, host several of the pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies that are responsible for several of the drugs and therapeutics that underpin health care globally. The nature of the pharma industry – it costs much to discover a useful effective drug and relatively little to make generic copies of it – with demand that is far disproportionate to affordability, means that there is a constant tussle between the inventors and the generic-drug companies. Patenting, or an exclusive monopoly for a fixed number of years to originators and a reciprocal right by governments to issue directions for 'compulsory licensing,' thereby selectively breaking such monopolies in the interest of public health, has brokered the peace and sustained the global pharma industry for decades. But new legal innovations such as data exclusivity continue to inveigle themselves in free trade negotiations. Under this provision, all the clinical-trial data that concerns the safety and efficacy of a drug generated by the originator firm becomes proprietary and out of bounds for a minimum period of six years. Permission to make a generic is possible if a country's regulator can rely on supplied clinical trial data to approve a drug. For this, generic makers usually rely on the originator's published data.

The principle of data exclusivity is present among European countries as well as in agreements involving many developing countries. Were it to take effect in India, it could significantly hinder India's drug industry which is also a major exporter of affordable drugs. Indian officials have rejected data exclusivity as a point of negotiations in the FTA, though leaked drafts of the agreement suggest that it is alive. However, India's rise up the drug manufacturing chain in the last few decades means that it must invest in an ecosystem that can conduct ethical drug trials and make new molecules and therapeutics from scratch. The paradigm that drug development will always be expensive and confined to the West need not be permanent, as was seen in the development of several novel technology approaches to developing vaccines in India during the COVID-19 pandemic. But as preparation, India must invest substantially more in fundamental research to incubate the local drug industry into the future.

Scuttling opposition

Income-Tax department's stalling of Congress accounts seems political

In a politically loaded move, the Income-Tax department has raised a demand of ₹210 crore in penalty and as dues from the Congress, which the party says has effectively stalled the operation of all its bank accounts. On the face of it, the action seems disproportionate to the charges, and an appellate tribunal has subsequently allowed the political party to operate the accounts on the condition that an amount of ₹115 crore is kept in lien until the case is heard next week. The party says it does not have such amounts in its current accounts. Just weeks before the general election, the principal Opposition party of the country finds itself restrained by a central agency. It is worrying that this falls into a pattern of enforcement agencies targeting those fighting the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The Income-Tax department action against the Congress relates to tax returns filed by the party for FY2018-19. The party had missed the deadline of December 31, 2019 by about 45 days to file the returns. Of the receipts of ₹199 crore recorded in the income-tax returns, ₹14,40,000 was in cash, which the party says was given by its Members of Parliament and Members of the Legislative Assembly. The demand of a penalty of ₹210 crore is for a 45-day delay in filing the returns, and a discrepancy, if at all, of ₹14.40 lakh. The Income-Tax department's action appears high-handed and is clearly meant to paralyse the Congress.

This unusual I-T move came to light a day after the Supreme Court of India expanded on the link between money and politics in a verdict that held the secretive electoral bond scheme to be unconstitutional. Money has the power to influence politics, and disparity in access to funds can create political inequality and distort electoral outcomes. The Court's judgment echoed this in its verdict which held the electoral bond scheme as violative of fundamental rights. The BJP has championed the scheme that allows anonymous donors to contribute unlimited amounts to parties as an instrument to combat electoral corruption. Stalling the bank account of the Opposition, regardless of the Income-Tax department's allegations, cannot be viewed as routine law enforcement. Weaponisation of the law against political opponents of the ruling party has become a serious threat to India's democracy. The brazen partisanship of central agencies that target the critics of the government is undermining the political system. The claim that all this is being done for fighting corruption and ensuring transparency cannot be taken at face value. All stakeholders must be accountable in a democracy, and the ruling party more so. When accountability is invoked for scuttling the political activity of the Opposition, that can only bode ill for democracy.

A chance to stop the laundry cycle of Pakistan's elections

Suhasini Haidar

With the results of last week's elections in Pakistan, voters there have delivered their politicians a unique moment in history – one which could present the polity an opportunity to change the endless cycles of the past. These cycles have always brought those favoured by the military establishment to power in the country, followed by a period of tensions and fracture between the military and the political rulers, the dismissal of that government, the appointment of another, and then another election. Rinse, repeat.

The consistency with which each of the periods of political governments in Pakistan has met its end has produced three constants: first, none of the country's 30 Prime Ministers thus far has completed a full term in office. Second, every current major political party, i.e., Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz), and Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI), has at some point been the military's "favourite" in an election. And third, each of those parties has by turn fallen out of favour as well, and its leaders have found themselves imprisoned or 'exiled' from the country.

A rotation of the same leaders

While previous decades after 1947 saw a few political governments interspersed between military rule and martial law, since 2008, the military has played its role without actually taking over the reins of government. In this elaborate game of master-puppetry, military chiefs have had the support of all government arms and the judiciary, that have dismissed a number of Prime Ministers in a series of conveniently timed Supreme Court judgments. In 2012, PPP Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani was dismissed for contempt of court for refusing to reopen cases against then-President Asif Ali Zardari, and in 2017, PML-N Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was dismissed over the Panama Papers leak about a London apartment. Given the limited number of players in Pakistan's polity, however, the same leaders are re-introduced into the political spin cycle by the judiciary as well. So, Mr. Sharif was able to return to Pakistan last year just in time for elections because the cases against him were overturned, and Mr. Zardari's PPP is essaying another term for him as President if it enters into a coalition deal for the next government.

Meanwhile, Imran Khan was dismissed after a no-confidence vote in Parliament, which was ordered by the Supreme Court (it had reversed his dissolution of the house and his call for general elections in April 2022). Mr. Khan has since been convicted on charges that range from corruption to insurrection, and is also serving a seven-year prison term along with his wife Bushra Bibi for an "illegal marriage" (deemed "un-Islamic" by the courts). Apart from Mr. Khan's incarceration, the Pakistani courts have passed a slew of verdicts against the PTI, allowing cases against many PTI party members – some of them have quit politics rather than face repeated arrests. The country's media regulator had already banned the PTI leader's speeches from being aired on television. The Supreme Court also endorsed the Election Commission's decision to derecognise the PTI, and take away the party symbol (cricket bat), forcing the party to field all its candidates as Independents.

> Pakistan's polity still has an opportunity to use the unique moment that voters have provided, to change course

With the Independents surging ahead in most seats despite all this, the counting of votes, which is normally an exercise that takes some hours in Pakistan, slowed down to a crawl. Days later, the Election Commission showed a three-way result, reversing many of the early leads, which led to the current tally where none of the parties has enough to form a majority on their own; while the PTI Independents have the biggest haul of seats, the single largest party at present is the PML.

Predictably, the PML and PPP have decided to form a government together. The Election Commission will complete the formal notification of these results over the next few days, after which the Independents will have 72 hours to pledge allegiance to one or another political party, or risk losing out on a further share of proportional seats for women and minorities (allotted on a pro-rata basis to parties). One can be sure that each of the elected 93 members is already receiving threats and incentives to break away from the PTI in order to produce the establishment's desired outcome, and perpetuate the rinse, repeat laundry cycle of previous Pakistani elections. However, Pakistan's polity still has a chance to take the unique moment that Pakistan's voters have provided them to change the course of that history, and to break the cycle of the past.

On the Pakistan voter

To begin with, the importance of the Pakistani voter's actions cannot be downplayed, especially those who came to vote despite the cynicism over a pre-selected outcome. This is the voter who knew from past elections that their votes may not be counted and their mandate not respected, but still chose to vote differently from what was expected. If Mr. Khan wants to respect that vote and thwart the establishment, then the answer is not to go it alone and sit in the opposition, but, instead, to find ways to be in the government. For the PML-N and PPP, to form a government that cuts out the PTI would be a travesty of the vote as well, as this was a voter who clearly rejected the previous PML-PPP government, also led by Shahbaz Sharif (2022-2024), before the elections.

Second, each of the three major parties and leaders have suffered in more or less the same way as the others. Nawaz Sharif and Asif Zardari have an even longer history of being jailed along with their family members, not to mention Benazir Bhutto's struggles after her father was hanged. While none of them is blameless for the crimes they have been charged with thereafter, it is clear that those charges can vanish at the click of the establishment's fingers, when one of the politicians is deemed serviceable or becomes the "*laadla*" (chosen son). Before he was disqualified for corruption in 2017, Nawaz Sharif had been sentenced to life imprisonment in 2000 on charges of hijacking and terrorism, and yet, returned as Prime Minister in 2013. It would be more pragmatic then, if all of Pakistan's leaders were to decide to be on "the same page" with each other, rather than with the military, and drop the practice of jailing the opposition when they are in power.

Third, given the state of Pakistan's economy, the next government will need to adopt harsher reforms and measures to stay within the International Monetary Fund's programme that has mandated four priorities: severe budget cuts; return to market-determined foreign exchange rates which will plunge imports; a tight monetary policy to curb inflation, and structural reforms particularly for the energy sector. There is little chance that any government, let alone one that has not won the popular vote, will emerge from this process unscathed. The only way forward is for political parties to forge a common economic agenda.

Fight authoritarian forces

There are other lessons going forward for not just Pakistan but also for other "hybrid" democracies around the world, where governance comes from a merging of democratic and authoritarian forces. The first is that an electorate can never be taken for granted. If voters are a part of the system, then no matter what propaganda, pre-poll measures, or post-poll rigging are employed, it is difficult to ensure 100% predictable outcomes. Pakistan's first elections in 1970 were able to show just that, as the Awami League won the elections and insisted on forming the government even though Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was jailed. In choosing to muzzle the people of East Pakistan thereafter, its military rulers lost a large piece of their country.

Another significant outcome in 2024 is the poor showing by religious parties such as the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam- and Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal, and the even worse performance of violent extremists such as the Tehreek-e-Labaik, not to mention Lashkar-e-Taiba chief Hafiz Saeed's son Talha Saeed. The real lessons, however, are for the polity globally: in the larger laundry cycle of governance, democratically-minded leaders must learn to hang together against authoritarian forces, or risk being hung out to dry sooner or later.

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The clear message in the Court's 'no' to electoral bonds

Trilochan Sastry

is Chairman and Founder, Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and Professor, Indian Institute of Management Bangalore

The judgment of the Supreme Court of India, on February 15, 2024, striking down the electoral bonds scheme, is a landmark moment. Democracy requires transparency and the fact is that the electoral bonds scheme was opaque.

Voters in India have no idea who has been funding political parties and the amounts given. In all leading democracies, transparency is the basis of campaign funding. The Court has restored that transparency.

Funding limits removed

There are other legal issues. The first is the limit on funding by a corporate house or organisation. Again, the world over, this amount is limited to prevent undue influence on the government. We had such a provision in India before electoral bonds were introduced. The judgment says: "The chief reason for corporate funding of political parties is to influence the political process which may in turn improve the company's business performance...."

Electoral bonds also removed the earlier limits on how much of its profits a company could donate to political parties. The scheme even allowed loss-making companies to make donations. This could have opened the door for shell companies to be formed with the purpose of channelling funds to political parties. The Election Commission of India has said, "This opens up the possibility of shell companies being set up for the sole purpose of making donations to political parties." This too has been reversed by the Court.

Democracies went through a phase of crony capitalism, where big money funded political parties. In return, laws, policies, schemes and incentives were made for the benefit of the donors. In a limited way, the Supreme Court's judgment prevents this from happening in India.

There was an Amendment to the Finance Bill. In any country, the central bank alone has the authority to issue currency such as notes and bonds. Section 31 of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act says "only the RBI or the Central Government authorized by the RBI Act shall draw, accept, make or issue any bill of exchange or promissory note for payment of money to the bearers of the note or bond".

> The landmark judgment of the Supreme Court of India is a reminder that citizens need to be ever watchful in a democracy

The Government amended the RBI Act using a Finance Act, and allowed under a new clause 31(3), the central government to authorise any scheduled bank to issue electoral bonds. This amendment to the Finance Act too has been struck down.

A well thought-out plan

We need to pause for a minute to understand a few issues. The Amendment to the RBI Act was passed in a Finance Bill as this does not have to be passed by the Rajya Sabha. At the time of the introduction of the electoral bonds scheme, the ruling party did not have a majority in the Rajya Sabha and wanted to avoid a vote in the Upper House. But can any issue be inserted into a Finance Bill? Electoral bonds have nothing to do with the provisions for a Finance Bill. Again, a number of laws were amended to introduce the electoral bonds such as the RBI Act 1934, the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951, the Income Tax Act 1961, and the Companies Act 2013. It was carefully thought-out. It was in response to a Central Information Commission (CIC) ruling that political parties have to be completely transparent about their funding. The electoral bonds were introduced to bypass the CIC ruling. But why are political parties afraid of transparency?

The legal system remains opaque to the so-called ordinary citizen and voter. When four laws are amended to introduce a scheme that strikes at the root of democracy, namely transparency, layers of obfuscation are drawn over the scheme so that the citizen gives up trying to understand it. But these are not technical issues. These are issues that affect the very basis of democracy.

This also raises fundamental issues in a democracy. Any government with a majority can pass any Bill, which becomes law. There is no concept of an independent vote in India and ruling party members have to vote in favour of the government unlike in the United States. This means that a few people at the top of a ruling party can get almost any law they want passed. In the case of electoral bonds, processes for public consultation, and discussions in Parliament were not followed.

The essence of the judgment

The Supreme Court judgment can be summarised as follows. The electoral bonds scheme has been struck down. All Amendments to the RPA Act, the Finance Act 2017, and the Companies Act 2013 are violative of Articles 19 and 14 of the Constitution. Article 19 refers to the right to information, and Article 14 to the right to equality, where arbitrariness in law is not permissible. These Articles are part of the Fundamental Rights in the Indian Constitution, and cannot be violated. The Supreme Court has directed the State Bank of India (SBI), the sole bank receiving funds in exchange for electoral bonds, to stop issuing them. The SBI has to submit the full details of all electoral bonds that have been issued so far, to the Election Commission of India (ECI) by March 6, 2024. In turn, the ECI has to publish this information on its website within two weeks.

We need to note that two constitutional bodies, the ECI and the Supreme Court, have acted in favour of democracy. The power of judicial review of laws passed by Parliament on the basis of the Constitution is precious. We need to applaud the Constitution and those who framed it.

The issue of money in elections, which includes the use of black money and bribing of voters using campaign funds and freebies, remains. It is said that the price of democracy is eternal vigilance. The Supreme Court's judgment is the outcome of vigilance by citizens. We need political parties, but it is up to us to ensure that they work for the good of society and the nation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Electoral bonds verdict

The Supreme Court judgment striking down the electoral bond scheme is assuring to every voter who now feels that his/her right to information about political funding has been restored. But, the case also contrasts how the much lauded RTI Act was/is being continually watered down is for all to see.

P.R.V. Raja,
Pandalam, Kerala

The top court is certainly the saviour of last resort for democracy in India. One cannot help contrasting how the ruling party has got the lion's share of funds with how the same party has gone about financially throttling NGOs and think-tanks.

S.R. Patnaik,
Bhubaneswar, Odisha

With the scheme now unconstitutional, the moot question is whether the earlier fund raisings are to be treated as illegal, and whether this money is tainted. Also, will the funds pooled, unutilised and lying in the bank accounts of the parties be transferred to the sovereign account or Prime Minister's National Relief Fund?

Sitaram Popuri,
Bengaluru

Transparency in electoral funding is one of the basic tools to ensure the healthy functioning of a democracy. That the Supreme Court took nearly six years to see the opacity of the electoral bonds is nothing sort of a lesson for the court itself. The higher judiciary must now ensure better handling of critical cases which affect the health of democracy.

Kshitiz Bhardwaj,
Rewari, Haryana

Security personnel check motorists at the Banbhoolpura area of Haldwani in Uttarakhand four days after violence broke out in the city following the demolition of a mosque and school by the authorities. R.V. MOORTHY

Sticks, stones, and bullet wounds

On February 8, municipal authorities in Haldwani, Uttarakhand, demolished a mosque and a madrasa claiming they were illegal structures. The consequent clash between the residents of the area and the police claimed the lives of five people and has left over 100 injured. **Ishita Mishra** reports on the incident and its aftermath

On the afternoon of February 8, Aman Hussain's brother Anas, a student of Class 8, was not at home when violence broke out in Haldwani, the largest city in Kumaon region of Uttarakhand, and a gateway to Nainital, one of the most populated hill stations of north India. Worried that Anas would get caught in the melee, his father Zahid Hussain, a 48-year-old construction material supplier, went looking for him.

"Minutes later, our neighbours told us that my father was lying in a pool of blood," recalls Aman. "I took him to a clinic nearby. My stomach turned when I saw Anas lying there on a stretcher with a bullet injury below his waist."

That evening, Anas and Zahid bled to death. They were two of the four people who died during the violence that day. A fifth victim, who had been shot, succumbed to injuries days later.

Leading up to the deaths was a single event. A few hours earlier, on that cool afternoon in the foothills of the Himalayas, municipal authorities proceeded towards the Banbhoolpura area with bulldozers and other heavy machinery to demolish the Mariyam mosque and the Abdul Razzaq Zakariya madrasa. Scores of angry residents, including children, gathered at the spot to protest against the demolition. The two structures were built decades ago on government land in an area popularly known as Malik Ka Baghicha, which, the authorities alleged, had been encroached on by a contractor named Abdul Malik.

The officials claimed that the demolition was taking place as part of an ongoing "anti-encroachment drive". The stated aim of the drive was to free acres of Nazool land in order to broaden roads or build schools and bus stops. Nazool lands once belonged to kings and were later taken over by the British. After Independence, the British vacated these lands, but as there was no proper documentation of many parcels, they came to be owned by the government. Nazool land is often leased out to entities for 15 to 99 years for public purposes. Uttarakhand has over 2.42 crore square metres of Nazool land.

The district administration claimed that the structures under their scrutiny were not registered as a mosque and school and were illegal. They contended that they had sent notices to the "encroachers", giving them an opportunity to prove ownership of the land. When ownership could not be proved, the authorities decided to proceed with the demolition "as per due process," they said.

The police, who were accompanying the officials, managed to disperse the crowd. The demolition began and the structures, one painted green and the other cream, turned into rubble.

Minutes later, violence broke out. The police claim that the residents began throwing stones, while the men and women allege that the police began to lathi-charge them. Violence surged and the mob allegedly set fire to a police station. Dozens of vehicles, both government and private, were burnt and around 100 police personnel were injured. Several civilians received bullet, stone, and cane injuries.

> We have demolished over 250 structures, including temples, shops, and houses. We will not bow down to rioters
>
> **PANKAJ UPADHYAY**
> Former Municipal Commissioner of Haldwani

To maintain law and order, the authorities imposed a curfew in the area which includes at least 8,000 homes and 50,000 people. They issued shoot-at-sight orders. Paramilitary forces were deployed, forcing residents, including those whose relatives had been admitted in hospital, to remain confined within their homes. Three First Information Reports were filed and 5,000 unidentified people booked for rioting and arson. Malik was named as the main accused.

'He was shot in the back'

When his father Mohd Israr, 55, was struck by a bullet that day and admitted in the Sushila Tiwari government medical college, Mohd Suhail, 23, stayed with him for five straight days. His mother Naseema, younger sister, and wife remained at home due to the curfew. As Internet had been suspended in the area, the family could not even call one another on video. On the fifth day, Israr, who operated a goods vehicle, died.

Israr's younger son Amaan is distraught. "My mother was brought to the hospital only to see my father's body," he says. Amaan alleges that the police fired the bullet that got lodged in his father's skull.

The fourth victim of the violence was Mohd Shabban, 22, who ran a grocery shop. Much like how Hussain went in search of Anas on the day of the violence, Shabban went looking for his brother Shadab, says Riaz Mohammed, his brother-in-law. "He was shot in the back," says Riaz.

The victims' relatives say the administration ignored the intelligence inputs which had suggested that tensions may flare up if the demolition was carried out.

Faheem Qureshi, a driver, too died that day. But his son, Javed, says that the motive for the killing was revenge. "My brother was not killed by the police or by rioters. Our neighbour, Sanjay Sonkar, has had an issue with us for a long time over the construction of a wall. He got an opportunity to take revenge that day as shots were being fired from all directions," he says. The family has submitted a written complaint to the police against Sonkar but no action has been taken so far, they say.

The Senior Superintendent of Police, Haldwani, Prahlad Naryan Meena, says all the deaths are being investigated. It is during such an investigation that the police found that Prakash Singh, who had also been included in the list of victims on the day of the violence, was in fact murdered.

"Prakash was in a relationship with the wife of a police constable," says a senior police official involved in the investigation. "He happened to reach Haldwani on the day of the violence to meet her. The constable shot him dead and threw his body near the railway tracks, about a kilometre from Banbhoolpura. Initially, it appeared that he was also killed in the violence. *Sabne behti Ganga me haath dhoya* (everyone tried to benefit from the situation)," he says.

A deserted city

Days after the violence, there are charred vehicles in every second lane of Banbhoolpura. The windows of the mostly small, single-storey, and poorly constructed houses are cracked or broken. The lanes are deserted. The stench from the ditches, which have not been cleaned, has forced everyone to cover their faces. The district administration says the area has been cleaned and essential supplies provided to people.

Most houses are locked from the outside; their occupants fled Haldwani when the violence broke out. Many men have been picked up by the police for interrogation or have run away fearing arrest. The women have stayed.

Hina Bibi, 24, is six months pregnant. She runs from lane to lane asking for cooking gas. The paramilitary forces guard every corner and she cannot take the risk of violating the curfew as she has left her two-year-old child at home.

Anam Ali, 28, is inconsolable. She holds the hand of one child and carries the second in her arms. Anam alleges that the police barged into her house on February 10, two days after violence broke out in Haldwani, thrashed her husband Rizwan, and took him away. She has neither seen nor heard of him since. "Please ask them to take me as well," she pleads while sobbing. "My husband is innocent. I can't live without him."

Firoza, whose nephew Mohd Shoib was beaten by the police, claims that the participants in the violence were not residents of Banbhoolpura.

At Abid Siddiqui's single-storey house, located 200 metres from the demolition spot, a paper pasted on the door announces that he saved the life of a constable, Lakshmi, who was attacked by the mob on February 8. It also provides her phone number.

"I had saved the life of the constable when a mob was beating her up. She was bleeding profusely. I pulled her into my house, gave her first aid, and helped her rejoin her squad after the situation was brought under control. I had to paste this paper on the wall after the police attempted to pick me up as well," says Abid. He alleges that police action against men, women, and children continued for days after the violence.

Taking a communal turn

Pankaj Upadhyay, the municipal commissioner of Haldwani who was transferred to Udham Singh Nagar days before the violence, says the anti-encroachment drive will continue. He believes that the violence was aimed at challenging the state machinery. "Those who are calling the demolition an attack on a particular community must know that our drive to free Nazool land has been going on since May 2023. We have demolished over 250 structures, including temples, shops, and houses. We razed the famous Rokhariya Baba temple in January. In Metropole, we demolished 164 houses built on Nazool land. We will not bow down to rioters," he says.

Condemning the violence, Sumit Hridayesh, the Congress MLA from Haldwani, says everyone involved in the violence must be punished. He alleges that the district administration and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led State government are unnecessarily playing politics over the incident.

"I heard some officials saying that the violence was an attempt to threaten the State which had passed the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) a day earlier. I found this vague and irresponsible. Why would only Haldwani's Banbhoolpura, which has many Hindus, and no other place in the State have a problem with the UCC?" Hridayesh feels that the administration was playing with religious sentiments by going ahead with the demolition of the mosque without taking religious leaders into confidence.

The violence, which the administration insists is not communal, has taken a communal turn in other parts of the city. Nawab Khan, 48, who rented a house in the Chaupla Chauraha area, says he was threatened to vacate the house by a resident named Manu Goswami, who aims to be a politician. "Manu told me that Muslims will not be allowed to live in Hindu-dominated areas. My children have exams. Where will I go on such short notice?" Khan was finally forced to move out of the place on February 15 as the police issued a challan to his landlord.

Goswami says he harbours no ill-feeling towards Khan, but if a Muslim lives in an area dominated by Hindus, "it will create tension".

Ahrar Baig, a lawyer practising in the Uttarakhand High Court, says that Banbhoolpura has been a "target" for some time. Last year, about 4,000 families, mostly Muslims and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes living in a 2 km stretch along the railway track in Banbhoolpura, were served eviction notices by the Indian Railways on the orders of the High Court. The Railways claimed that the houses had been built illegally on its land. After weeks of protest, the residents moved the Supreme Court. The matter is now sub judice.

Baig is representing many families in this case. "During that time, the government told the High Court that there is no Nazool land in Haldwani. Now it has demolished the mosque and madrasa saying the land is Nazool," he says.

According to an interim fact-finding report published by the advocacy group Association for Protection of Civil Rights, Muslims across the State are being targeted. The members of the body visited Haldwani on February 14, and concluded that the violence was a result of "a steady rise in communal tempers...over recent years." It went on to say, "The State government...and radical right wing citizen groups have together contributed to a highly polarising narrative.... One strand of this discourse is about creating Uttarakhand as a Devbhoomi, the holy land for Hindus, which would have no place for other religious minorities. Other strands of this divisive discourse include unsupported extravagant claims of a series of jihads allegedly waged by the Muslim population of the State including love jihad, land jihad, vyapar jihad, and mazaar jihad. One consequence of this discourse has been calls for economic and social boycotts of Muslims."

In 2023, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami launched a State-wide drive to remove encroachments from forest land under which over 500 mazaars (Muslim shrines) were demolished. The government says scores of temples were also razed. Dhami stated a few days after the incident in Haldwani that the situation was under control and a police station would come up at the demolition site.

Those who suffer

In the medicine ward of the Sushila Tiwari government medical college, Shahnawaz Ahmed sits next to his brother Sarfaraz, 26, who was shot in the chest on February 8. Sarfaraz, a tailor, had gone to deliver clothes to a client near the demolition site when the incident took place.

Five days since he brought Sarfaraz to the hospital, Shahnawaz has been wearing the same blood-soaked clothes. In his hurry, he forgot his wallet. He barely has money to buy clothes or even eat two meals. He sleeps on the floor without a blanket every night. "It is only the poor who get punished every time, whether during a pandemic or an incident of violence," he says. "It is better to die than to be poor in India."

Hina Bibi, 24, and the women of Banbhoolpura area say many men have been picked up by the police or have fled. R.V. MOORTHY

From Page One

Congress gets relief on appeal after I-T lien

The Congress's appeal to release the hold on its accounts will be heard by the ITAT on February 21, according to Rajya Sabha member and senior advocate Vivek Tankha, who appeared before the tax tribunal on behalf of the party.

"The government hasn't just frozen our accounts, but democracy has been frozen if the principal Opposition party's account is frozen just weeks before the general elections. Will our country have a single party rule?" the Congress treasurer asked.

'Assault on democracy'

Calling the I-T action "an assault on democracy", Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge appealed to the judiciary to "save the multi-party system and protect India's democracy".

In a post on X, he said: "Power drunk Modi Govt has frozen the accounts of the country's largest Opposition party - the Indian National Congress - just before the Lok Sabha elections. This is a deep assault on India's Democracy ! The UNCONSTITUTIONAL money collected by the BJP would be utilised by them for elections, but the money collected by us through CROWDFUNDING shall be sealed!"

"That is why I have said that there won't be any elections in the future... We will take to the streets and fight strongly against this autocracy!" the Congress chief said.

Youth Congress chief Srinivas B.V. led an impromptu protest in Delhi, while the party's State units plan to hold protests against the I-T department's action on Saturday.

ED probe finds no FEMA violations in Paytm case

Sources say no scheduled offences under PMLA were made out in the case of PPBL and a money laundering investigation cannot be done; the agency examined over 50 lakh wallets/accounts

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has not found any violation under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) during its inquiry into Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) transactions. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has the authority to take action against certain other instances of alleged non-compliance, according to the sources privy to the matter.

On January 31, the RBI had issued a circular barring PPBL from taking further deposits, top-ups or undertaking credit transactions into its customer accounts, wallets, FASTags, and National Common Mobility Cards (NCMC) after February 29. The deadline has now been extended till March 15.

RBI directive: The RBI issued a circular barring PPBL from taking new deposits after February 29, which was extended to March 15.

Audit report

The action was taken on the basis of the Comprehensive System Audit report and a subsequent compliance validation report of the external auditors' reports disclosing "persistent non-compliances and continued material supervisory concerns in the bank, warranting further supervisory action".

The ED was also asked to scrutinise the financial transactions under the scanner. The agency investigates suspected violations or offences under the FEMA and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

According to sources, as there are no scheduled offences under PMLA involved in the case of PPBL, a money laundering probe cannot be done. "If no crime is made out, there is also no generation of 'proceeds of crime' and so, PMLA does not apply," said a government official. Therefore, the ED looked into the transactions to determine if there was any violation under the FEMA provisions.

KYC compliance

It is learnt that the ED examined more than 50 lakh wallets or accounts, largely having small deposits, which did not reveal any foreign exchange rule contravention. The other alleged violations mainly pertained to Know Your Customer (KYC) compliance and other issues, on which the RBI is empowered to take action. The RBI may take appropriate action in this regard.

Sharad Pawar seeks urgent hearing in SC over EC decision

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) founder Sharad Pawar on Friday appealed to the Supreme Court for an urgent hearing of his case, saying a "strange situation" is arising by which he will be subject to the whip of his politically estranged nephew and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

Mr. Sharad Pawar had earlier moved the Supreme Court against the decision of the Election Commission (EC) to recognise Mr. Ajit Pawar's breakaway faction as the 'real' NCP. Mr. Ajit Pawar had joined the BJP-Shiv Sena coalition government.

Appearing before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, for the elder Pawar, said his client's faction had still not been allotted a symbol.

"A strange situation is upon us. Sharad Pawar will be subject to the whip of Ajit Pawar when the Assembly starts next week," Mr. Singhvi submitted.

He said the circumstances were "worse" than what the Uddhav Thackeray faction had faced within the Shiv Sena when Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had rebelled with his camp of MLAs.

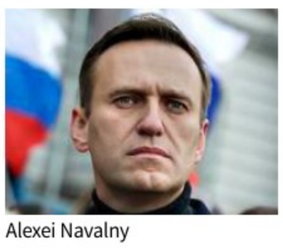
The Chief Justice assured that he would look into the plea for early listing.

Mr. Ajit Pawar has already filed a caveat in the Supreme Court, urging it to be heard before any order is passed in the special leave petition (SLP) filed by the elder Pawar.

The EC said that it had come to a conclusion in favour of Mr. Ajit Pawar after testing the aims and objectives of the party's constitution, the test of the party's constitution, and the test of majority.

Russian Opposition leader Alexei Navalny dies

Reuters
MOSCOW


Alexei Navalny

Russian Opposition leader Alexei Navalny died on Friday after collapsing and losing consciousness at the penal colony north of the Arctic Circle where he was serving a jail term, the Russian prison service said.

Mr. Navalny, 47, rose to prominence more than a decade ago by lampooning President Vladimir Putin and the Russian elite whom he accused of vast corruption, avarice and opulence.

The Federal Penitentiary Service of the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous District said in a statement that Mr. Navalny "felt unwell" after a walk at the IK-3 penal colony in Kharp, about 1,900 km northeast of Moscow. He lost consciousness almost immediately, it said.

"All necessary resuscitation measures were carried out, which did not yield positive results. Doctors of the ambulance stated the death of the convict," the prison service said, adding that causes of death were being established. Mr. Putin has been told about Mr. Navalny's death, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. Mr. Putin, who is running for re-election in a month, was shown on a television clip visiting a factory in the Urals.

Supporters of Mr. Navalny said they could not confirm he was dead, but that if he was then they believed he had been killed.

Condemnation quickly poured in from Western governments.

'I-T action on Congress bank accounts part of routine procedure'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Income-Tax department's action of freezing the Congress' main bank accounts was part of its "routine procedure" against defaulters, carried out in connection to claims for the tax assessment year 2018-19, according to sources close to the government.

Alleging partisan politics, the Opposition party claimed that its accounts had been frozen on "flimsy grounds".

According to the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) order issued on Friday, Revenue Department representatives said they "do not claim to have issued any order or direction to the concerned bank (s) for freezing the transactions in the bank account (s), but only for a lien on the amount lying in the bank account(s) up to the outstanding tax demand".

The freezing of its accounts "has affected all political activity" of the party barely weeks before the general election is to be announced, Congress leader Ajay Maken said.

However, sources close to the government said the freezing of accounts was only up to ₹115 crore, adding that the Congress was free to do other banking activities.

"The action was based on the assessment year 2018-19, wherein a claim of ₹103 crore was first lodged, and later raised to ₹105 crore, with interest added raising the claim to ₹135 crore," said a source.

"What has happened is a routine procedure, something that every taxpaying citizen has to face if they default on taxes," said the source.

The I-T Commission dismissed the cases in 2021-22, after which the Congress went to the ITAT in May 2023.

Spoke to PM about BJP's 'poaching', says Kharge

Press Trust of India
PUNE

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday said he had recently spoken to Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the BJP "poaching" Opposition leaders by "scaring" them.

His remarks comes days after former Maharashtra Chief Minister and Congress leader Ashok Chavan joined the BJP.

After inaugurating a party training camp in Lonavala, Mr. Kharge said: "During a tea meeting in Parliament where Prime Minister Narendra Modi was present, I asked him how many people are you [BJP] going to poach, as Ministers and ex-Chief Ministers are joining your fold."

"He [PM] said what could he do if people want to join the BJP. I told him they [BJP] are carrying out this work [poaching] by scaring people," Mr. Kharge added.

Congress passing through its worst phase in history: PM

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

Narendra Modi

Coining the slogan "*Abki Baar, NDA Sarkaar 400 Paar* [NDA to cross 400-seat mark this time]", Prime Minister Narendra Modi tore into the Congress at a public rally in Haryana's Rewari on Friday, saying that "the party was passing through its worst phase in history".

He was speaking at an event to lay the foundation stone for a new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Rewari's Majra Balkhi village and for a metro project in Gurugram, besides a few railway projects.

'BJP to get 370'

The people have resolved that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which abrogated Article 370, should be anointed with "370 seats" in the Lok Sabha election, said Mr. Modi. "While BJP will get 370 seats, the NDA will cross the 400-mark," he said.

Attacking the Congress, Mr. Modi said that the party had a track record of keeping the interests of one family above the interests of the country.

On one hand was the "bad governance" of the Congress and on the other, the "good governance" of the BJP, Mr. Modi said, claiming that the Congress had a track record of being responsible for the biggest scams in Indian history, promoting terrorism and separatism, and weakening the Army and the soldiers.

Uttarakhand Police release posters of miscreants

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Uttarakhand police on Friday released posters of nine miscreants wanted in connection with the violence at Banbhoolpura in Haldwani city.

Senior Superintendent of Police Prahlad Narayan Meena said 42 people had been arrested so far based on CCTV footage. "Illegal weapons and cartridges were recovered from those arrested," the SSP said.

He added that the posters of the nine miscreants involved in the incident have been stuck across the city. He hoped that people would reach out to the police in case they have any information about the rioters' whereabouts.

Meanwhile, Additional Director-General of Police Amit Sinha took stock of the situation in Banbhoolpura on Friday, after the district administration relaxed curfew in the area.

Tribal body threatens to shut govt. offices in Churachandpur

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

A day after two people were killed in Manipur's Churachandpur district during protests against the suspension of a Kuki-Zo policeman, the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) on Friday issued an ultimatum to the district Superintendent of Police, Shivanand Surve, and District Collector S. Dharun Kumar to "leave the district within 24 hours".

The ITLF, representing tribal associations in Churachandpur district, threatened to shut all government offices if the two officials did not move out. The duo would be responsible should anything untoward happen to them, the forum said.

Internet suspended

This came even as the Manipur government on Friday issued orders to suspend Internet services (including through VPNs) throughout Churachandpur for five days. Security forces also conducted a flag march in the area.

The protests on Thursday night were triggered by the suspension of head constable Siamlalpaul, whom the SP accused of "grave misconduct" for appearing with "village [defence] volunteers" in pictures on social media.

ITLF spokesperson Ginza Vualzong said, "The officers are not tribal-friendly. They know the situation yet they suspended a police official for merely posting videos with village volunteers. No such action is taken against security forces from the Meitei community who are seen with Arambai Tenggol [armed Meitei group]. This hurt the sentiments of the people and when they gathered at the SP's office seeking an explanation against the suspension, tear gas was thrown to disperse the crowd. This further aggravated the mob. Soon, the situation went out of control."

Ahead of polls, FCI plans to deliver foodgrains in bags with PM's photo

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

In the run-up to the Lok Sabha election, the Union government is ensuring that the brand of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is displayed conspicuously on foodgrain bags to be distributed under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY).

Under the PMGKAY, free foodgrains are to be provided to about 81.35 crore beneficiaries of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Households (PHH). The Central government has claimed that during the implementation of the PMGKAY in financial years 2020-21 and 2021-22, more than 75 crore beneficiaries have received foodgrains.

In a circular dated January 12, 2024, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) wrote to all its 26 regional offices asking them to float tenders for procuring woven laminated bags with an indicative logo of Mr. Modi, in order to distribute foodgrains under the PMGKAY.

With an imprint: Under PMGKAY, free foodgrains are to be provided to 81.35 crore beneficiaries. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In Rajasthan alone, synthetic bags costing ₹13.29 crore have been ordered. According to a Right to Information (RTI) reply provided to activist Ajay Bose by the FCI's storage section in the regional office of Jaipur, Rajasthan has given a supply order of 1.07 crore synthetic bags at the cost of ₹12.375 per bag.

Tenders in Rajasthan have been awarded to five companies – Rajasthan-based Salasar Technotex Pvt. Ltd., Rajasthan Flexible Packaging Ltd., Alliance Polysacks Pvt. Ltd., Gujarat-based Mor Techfab Pvt. Ltd., and Gujarat Blast Industries.

While Rajasthan has awarded the contract at ₹12.375 per bag, Nagaland has awarded the contract to only one company – Rajasthan Flexible Packaging at ₹9.30 per bag, stated the FCI's regional office in Dimapur, in the RTI reply. The reply also stated that Nagaland had ordered a quantity of 329 bales, without elaborating on the number of bags contained in each bale.

"During the free grain distribution under the PMGKAY that started in 2020 when the pandemic began, unbranded 50-kg jute sacks were used to disburse grain. The branding of bags with faces of political figures has begun in 2024, ahead of the election," said an official in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. The official added that Kerala may shy away from placing orders for bags with the branding.

While Rajasthan and Nagaland have issued supply orders, the FCI regional office in Maharashtra stated in its RTI reply, "The tender is still under process in the Maharashtra region." The FCI's regional office in Delhi too said that the process is yet to be complete.

Tamil Nadu has floated a tender for the supply of 1.14 crore bags. The FCI's regional office in Tamil Nadu replied to the RTI query stating, "The tender for 10-kg woven-laminated ration bags was floated on January 13, 2024 and the same is under process. The work order is yet to be issued."

ED inquiry into NRE account triggered summons to Mahua

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

Mahua Moitra

The Enforcement Directorate has initiated an inquiry under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) into transactions made using a Non-Resident External (NRE) account, over which it has summoned Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra for questioning, sources said.

Ms. Moitra has been asked to appear before an ED team at the agency's New Delhi headquarters for recording her statement on February 19.

It is learnt that the Income Tax department had earlier found the details of the account, which were shared with the ED, for a follow-up inquiry to ascertain if there was any violation of FEMA provisions. As Ms. Moitra was allegedly linked to the account, the agency may seek information about the transactions from her. During the inquiry, sources said, the agency may also look into Ms. Moitra's expenses made overseas and source of funds. Under FEMA provisions, the ED may impose a penalty or attach assets worth the amount sent overseas if any violation is established.

The former Trinamool MP had been accused of taking bribes for asking questions in Parliament. In December 2023, she was expelled from the House after a report of an ethics panel held her guilty of "unethical conduct" for sharing her Lok Sabha credentials with unauthorised persons.

Cong. slams police action on protesting farmers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Condemning the police action on protesting farmers at the Shambhu Barrier, the Congress on Friday urged the Narendra Modi government to fulfil its promises on providing legal guarantee for minimum support price and other demands.

Addressing a press conference here, Punjab MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira, who heads the All India Kisan Congress, hit out at the Haryana government and alleged that the State police were creating impediments and committing brutality on peaceful farmers who want to proceed to Delhi to remind the Union government of its promise.

Mr. Khaira said the government should withdraw all criminal cases against the farmers booked during the last agitation two years ago and adequate compensation be paid to families of 700 farmers who lost their lives during the year-long protest.

"Farmers cannot be called secessionists given that they die for the country and their sons are defending the country's borders," Mr. Khaira said. He further said while M.S. Swaminathan had been named for the Bharat Ratna, none of the recommendations made by him had been accepted.

SKM's nationwide shutdown call evokes mixed response

Strike a success, say Morcha and trade unions, even as farmers continue to camp on inter-State boundary on day four of the protest; Centre and farmers to hold next round of talks tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

The nationwide shutdown call given by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) evoked mixed response in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh on Friday.

The 'Grameen Bharat bandh' call was given by the SKM to press the Central government to accept the farmers' demands, including a legal guarantee for minimum support price (MSP).

Normal life was disrupted in Punjab owing to the bandh. Shops and commercial establishments were seen completely or partially closed in most of the rural parts of the State. In major cities including Patiala and Ludhiana, shops and commercial establishments were open.

Farmers squatted on roads, including national highways in Pathankot, Tarn Taran, Bathinda and Jalandhar, disrupting traffic. As buses stayed off the roads, commuters faced problems.

In Chandigarh, the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana, shops and commercial establishments were open in most of the markets. Vehicular traffic was also close to normal in the city.

Major closure: Farmers blocking the Chandigarh highway in Patiala during the Grameen Bharat bandh on Friday. ANI

In Haryana, the bandh had a partial impact. Members of the Bhartiya Kisan Union (Charuni) staged demonstrations at several toll plazas across the State. In Hisar, the Haryana Roadways services were affected as its employees stayed away from work.

Demonstrations were held against the Centre in parts of Himachal Pradesh including the State capital, Shimla.

The SKM and 10 Central trade unions (CTUs) claimed that the strike was a "big success."

Separately, the protesting farmers from Punjab, who had been stopped from marching to Delhi, continued to camp at different locations on the inter-State boundary with Haryana on Friday even as another round of meeting between farmer representatives and the Union Ministers is scheduled for Sunday.

Tear gas shelling on

On the fourth day of protest on Friday, tension was palpable as the Haryana Police again fired tear gas shells to disperse the protesting farmers when they moved towards the barricades at the Shambhu Barrier near Ambala.

Amid the escalating tension, the Haryana Police released video clips, showing several protesters throwing stones and purportedly attempting to provoke the security personnel at the Shambhu Barrier near Ambala. In its post on X, the Haryana Police said violence can't be allowed under the guise of a farmers' movement and urged the protesters not to disrupt law and order, and to protest peacefully. The police alleged that despite their assurance of a peaceful protest, the protesters were creating a ruckus.

Farmer leaders, meanwhile said that they were adhering to peace, and it was the Haryana security personnel who were using force against protesters by hurling tear gas shells and firing rubber bullets.

'Positive discussions'

Amid the continuing protest, the Union Ministers and farmer leaders said they held "positive" discussions in the meeting that concluded on the intervening night of Thursday-Friday. This was the third meeting between the farmer leaders and the Centre, after the first two meetings remained inconclusive.

After the meeting, which discussed the farmers' demands, including giving a legal guarantee to the minimum support price, Union Minister Arjun Munda said the meeting was held in a very cordial manner in which positive deliberations took place. "Together, we will find a solution peacefully," he said.

Will work towards resolution of issues: Thakur

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Anurag Thakur on Friday wanted to know how Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann would have responded to farmers' agitation when the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) had once demanded that the State governments pick up the tab for giving minimum support price (MSP).

"During the Congress regime at the Centre, Arvind Kejriwal demanded that the Punjab government make MSP payouts to farmers. Bhagwant Mann also raised a lot of questions. Now, Mann is the Chief Minister. Will he respond to this [Kejriwal's] demand?" said Mr. Thakur.

The Minister said the Punjab government should maintain law and order and expressed hope that the farmers would not resort to violence and vandalism.

He added that the Union government has had a good round of talks with the farmers' leaders and the next round of talks will be held on Sunday. "I am fully confident that the talks will be cordial on Sunday as well and we will work towards a resolution of issues," he said.

He added that "no government at the Centre has done as much for farmers as the Modi government".

INBRIEF

'Doors always open' for Nitish in *Mahagatbandhan*: Lalu

Replying to a question whether Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar would be invited back into the *Mahagatbandhan* (grand alliance), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad on Friday said his "doors are always open" for Mr. Kumar. He was on his way to Jandaha in Bihar's Vaishali district to attend a private event when presspersons posed the query. Later, Janata Dal (United) spokesperson Neeraj Kumar, reacting to Mr. Prasad's comment said, "We have locked the doors with an Aligarh lock. Our leader Nitish Kumar has clearly said that whenever RJD had shared power with us, it engaged in corruption. There is no question of going back."

U.P. imposes six-month ban on protests by govt. staff

The Uttar Pradesh government on Friday invoked the Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA), banning strikes by government employees in all State government departments, corporations, and authorities, for a period of six months. The decision came amid the ongoing farmers' strike called by various union organisations. The Act gives the police power to arrest the employees violating provisions without a warrant, while any person who instigates a strike can be imprisoned for a term which may extend up to one year or a fine which may extend to ₹1,000 or both. In the past, the Uttar Pradesh government had banned strikes and protests for six months during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and again in May 2021.

On the draw

INDIA bloc will ensure MSP legal guarantee: Rahul

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

If the INDIA bloc comes to power, it will ensure that farmers get a legal guarantee that they will be paid minimum support prices (MSPs) for their crops, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi vowed on Friday. He added that farmers are currently "not getting the right price" for their produce.

Thousands of farmers are currently in a face-off with the Union government at the Punjab-Haryana boundary as they attempt to march to Delhi with a seven-point agenda, including a long-standing demand for legally guaranteed MSPs. An umbrella farmers' group, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), called for a nationwide strike on Friday to press their demands.

Addressing the Kishan Nyay Mahapanchayat in Sasaram in Bihar's Rohtas district as part of his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, Mr. Gandhi said that things would be different if the Opposition alliance, which includes the Congress, is voted to power in the upcoming Lok Sabha election.

"I can guarantee one thing, whenever farmers have asked anything from the Congress party – be it waiving their loans, MSPs, or the Green Revolution – we have never backed out. We have always protected you and will keep protecting the farmers," he said.

"Farmers are not getting the right price for their yield such as paddy, wheat, pulses and vegetables. I have taken a revolutionary decision to implement a legal MSP guarantee if the INDIA bloc comes to power. We will implement what the Swaminathan report says," he added.

A report by a panel headed by the late M.S. Swaminathan, posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna last week, had recommended a formula for MSPs which would result in higher rates being paid to farmers.

'No time for farmers'

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader and former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav, who was accompanying Mr. Gandhi, also slammed the Union government's attitude toward farmers. "Prime Minister [Narendra Modi] has time to meet [actor] Priyanka Chopra, but he does not have time to meet our brother farmers," Mr. Yadav said.

This was the first time that Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Yadav have shared the stage since their erstwhile ally, Janata Dal (United) leader and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, snapped ties with them to rejoin the BJP-led NDA. The Congress leader praised Mr. Yadav's efforts against unemployment.

'We did nothing wrong, we are not enemies of Qatar'

Former Navy Commander Amit Nagpal, who was released by Qatar, says he still does not know why he and his colleagues were arrested for espionage and thanks Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Indian Embassy for their efforts to get them released; he dismisses reports about Israel links

INTERVIEW

Commander Amit Nagpal

Suhasini Haidar

Days after returning to India along with his colleagues after being released by Qatar in an alleged espionage case, former Indian Navy Commander Amit Nagpal says he has no idea why they were arrested. Protesting his innocence, Commander Nagpal speaks about his ordeal, and that of his family for the past 18 months. He thanks Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Indian Embassy for their efforts to have them released. While seven men have returned to India, the eighth, former managing director of Dahra Global Technologies and former Commander Purnendu Tiwari, is still in Doha, believed to be under a travel ban. Excerpts:

How did you hear about your release – give us a sense of the moment you knew you would be free?

I came to know I was going to be free only when I walked out of that facility [prison in Doha on February 11] and I saw [Indian Ambassador Vipul] standing in front of me. I asked him, "Are we out? Are we going home?" He said, "'Yes, you're going home.'" And that's the moment I realised... Before that we had no clue at all about what's going to happen. The suddenness with which we went in...with the same suddenness we came out. Even my wife who had been in Qatar throughout this ordeal had no clue this was going to happen. So it was a very, very pleasant surprise.

Why did you decide to move to Qatar?

Well, there was this opportunity to train the Qatari Navy. I have been a career naval officer since 1990. I joined NDA in 1987. So, this is my core competence, and they gave me an opportunity to train another country, which I was happy to do. India has been training in this region for a long time. We were the first to go in there... So it was great to get connected to a company which was training in the Middle East and we did immensely well. Unfortunately, it had to end this way.

Commander Amit Nagpal with his family. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Tell us about the arrest...

The minute I was arrested, I knew things were very serious, but I always believed that as I had done nothing wrong, if not today, certainly tomorrow I would be out of this mess. And I had full faith that the authorities would understand that we had done nothing wrong at all. So I didn't really think about the charges because I knew I was innocent.

And then in October 2023, the court pronounced the death sentence against all eight of you...

Those were the most difficult days. When I spoke next to my wife, she said that the government is now going to take the charges more seriously. They were going to meet External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and that gave me a lot of confidence.

It was after that sentence that we saw the intervention at the highest level by Prime Minister Modi on December 1. Do you wish it had come earlier and who do you credit with your freedom?

I can't go into whatever has happened, but I guess so... If [the intervention] could have happened now, it could have happened earlier as well. But it's behind us now. I want to thank my wife, my children, and my mother who were alone at home most of the time. I would credit the government and our Prime Minister – this [release] could have happened only at the highest level. There's no doubt in my mind that the release order would have only come from the Emir. [Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani] would have only given the order if the Prime Minister had spoken to him. I am sure that is connected. So I would like to thank both the Emir, Government of Qatar as well as our own Prime Minister. He is definitely the man who got us out.

Many reports suggested geopolitical factors were behind your arrest – some connected it to India's position on the Israel-Hamas conflict, others pointed to a Pakistani connection. How did these reports affect you?

Why were we arrested and why did we go through this – I have no clue why it happened. I hope in the future, sometime, I do come to know why we actually went through this [ordeal]. Were we really to blame, because we did nothing wrong. All these media reports about Israel – these are all utter nonsense. We had done nothing at all. We had not spoken to anybody at all. We are not enemies of Qatar.

Full interview: bit.ly/amitnagpal

Seat-sharing talks between SP, Cong. in U.P. hit an impasse

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The Congress-Samajwadi Party talks on seat sharing have hit an impasse, with the grand old party insisting on 20 seats and also demanding that it be given "winnable seats" instead of the ones offered at present. The SP, meanwhile, is questioning the Congress's "seriousness".

The last face-to-face conversation between the two sides was held on January 19. Since then, they have exchanged letters – one written by Mukul Wasnik, Rajya Sabha MP and convener of the party's National Alliance Committee, presenting the Congress's wish list, and the other by Rajya Sabha MP and senior SP leader Ram Gopal Yadav expressing the SP's reservations and objections to each of the seat mentioned by the Congress.

According to informed sources, the SP is ready to concede 14 seats, though the Congress doesn't agree with many of the seats being offered, arguing about their low electoral potential. The SP, meanwhile, as per sources, also wants to vet the Congress's list of possible candidates for each of the seats it gives them.

Akhilesh Yadav

The Congress instead contends that the SP's insistence that seat sharing has to be based on the performance of the two in the past elections (both Lok Sabha and Assembly) is a flawed approach.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Salman Khurshid, who is part of the Congress's National Alliance Committee, said both sides had factored the long duration for the negotiations. "We want to maximise and optimise the sum of the whole that we create together and it takes time," he said.

INBRIEF

Ensure that wheelchairs are available, DGCA tells airlines

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has served a show-cause notice on Air India and issued an advisory to all airlines to ensure availability of adequate wheelchairs after an 80-year-old passenger collapsed at Mumbai airport and later passed away. The octogenarian, Babu Patel, and his wife arrived on Air India's New York-Mumbai flight on February 12. They had both requested a wheelchair. Only one wheelchair was available which Mrs. Patel used. The DGCA said in a press statement that Air India was served a show-cause notice for violating the Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) on the carriage of persons with disability. The airline has to submit a reply to the DGCA within seven days.

SC orders district-wise review of facilities in jails for women

The Supreme Court on Friday ordered a district-wise consideration of conditions and facilities available for inmates within the four walls of women's jails across the country. Issuing notice to the Centre and States, a Bench headed by Justice Hima Kohli tasked committees in districts comprising the senior most women judicial and police officers along with superintendents of women's jails, wherever possible, to inspect the security, hygiene, healthcare infrastructure, and welfare measures for women prisoners and children residing with them. The court directed State governments to collate the data and file a status report on April 5.

Refinery told to pull down wall in elephant corridor

The Gauhati High Court declined to provide relief to an eastern Assam refinery that challenged an order by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to demolish a boundary wall of its planned township built in an elephant corridor. Dismissing two writ petitions by Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) against an eight-year-old NGT order, Justice Devashis Baruah said the public sector company was not entitled to any relief. The NGT asked the Assam government not to allow any activities within a radius of 15 km of NRL and notify the conversion of Deopahar, an elephant corridor, into a reserve forest.

Law panel recommends law to register NRI marriages

The Law Commission, in a report submitted to the Union government, has suggested a comprehensive law to register marriages of non-resident Indians (NRIs) to deal with situations arising out of "fraudulent marriages". Chairman Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi (retd) said the commission is of the opinion that the proposed legislation should be enough to cater to all facets involving marriages of NRIs as well as foreign citizens of Indian origin with that of Indian citizens. "It is further recommended that all marriages between the NRIs/OCIs and Indian citizens should be made compulsorily registered in India," Justice Awasthi said.

Torpedoes, refueller aircraft in new deals cleared by DAC

The acquisition projects worth ₹84,560 crore also include new-generation anti-tank mines, radars, medium-range maritime reconnaissance and multi-mission maritime aircraft for Navy, Coast Guard

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) on Friday accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN), the first step in the procurement process, for proposals worth ₹84,560 crore.

The proposals include some long-pending deals – such as for heavy weight torpedoes (HWT) for the Navy's Scorpene-class submarines and flight refueller aircraft (FRA) for the Indian Air Force (IAF) – beginning afresh.

Other major deals include medium range maritime reconnaissance and multi-mission maritime aircraft for the Navy and the Coast Guard, new generation anti-tank mines, air defence tactical control radar, and software-defined radios.

"Further, to keep the Indian naval ships one step ahead of the threats posed by the adversaries, the AoN under Buy (Indian) category has been accorded for procurement of active-towed array sonar having capabilities to operate at low frequencies and various depths for long-range detections of adversary submarines. The AoN has also been accorded for procurement of HWT for enhancing the attacking capabilities of Kalvari class submarines," the Defence Ministry said. "The DAC accorded AoN for procurement of FRA for enhancing the operational capabilities and the reach of the IAF."

The DAC has accorded nod for procurement of torpedoes to enhance the attacking capabilities of Kalvari class submarines.

Deals for HWTs, FRAs and towed-array sonars have been repeatedly delayed and the process now begins again. The delays were due to allegations of corruption and in the interim, the existing older generation torpedoes have been customised to fire from the Scorpenes. With delays in their procurement, the IAF has been looking to lease aircraft for training purposes and keep the existing six IL-78 aircraft for operational tasks.

The AoN for procurement of medium-range maritime reconnaissance and multi-mission maritime aircraft, has been granted by the DAC for strengthening the surveillance and interception capabilities of the Navy and the Coast Guard over the country's vast maritime area.

'DAP 2020'

The procurement of a new generation of anti-tank mines having seismic sensors and the provision of remote deactivation with additional safety features has been approved under Buy (Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured category of Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020.

The DAC has approved amendments in the DAP 2020 with respect to benchmarking and cost computation, payment schedule and procurement quantity.

The DAC also cleared the AoN for sustainment support through repair replenishment for the 24 MH-60R multi-role helicopters procured by the Navy from the U.S. under the foreign military sale route.

Coaching centres can't use misleading ads: draft guidelines

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), an arm of the Union Consumer Affairs Ministry, has released draft guidelines for the "Prevention of misleading advertisement in coaching sector", which bring such offences under the radar of the Consumer Protection Act. The CCPA has invited public comments on the three-page guidelines. The CCPA had formed a sub-committee to draft the guidelines earlier after discussions with several stakeholders. The last date for submitting suggestions is March 16.

The Ministry said in a release that the draft guidelines have been framed after detailed deliberations with all stakeholders, including coaching institutes, law firms, government and voluntary consumer organisations. It has defined coaching as "tuition, instructions or academic support or learning programme or guidance" provided by any person. Any individual who engages in coaching shall be considered to be engaging in a misleading advertisement if important information related to the course, such as whether it is free or paid, and duration opted by the successful candidate, is concealed.

Such guidelines were initiated after widespread complaints against certain coaching centres for misusing the names and photos of successful candidates in various competitive examinations, including the civil services exam. Making false claims regarding success rates, number of selections, or rankings of students in any competitive exam without providing verifiable evidence, falsely representing students' success as solely attributable to the coaching, without acknowledging the individual efforts of the students and creating a false sense of urgency or fear of missing out that may heighten anxieties amongst students, or parents will be considered as misleading under the new guidelines.

"Guidelines would be made applicable to every person engaged in coaching...," the Ministry said.

Police stop central BJP delegation from visiting Sandeshkhali

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

A team of BJP MPs, including two Union Ministers, as well another delegation led by State Congress president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury was on Friday stopped by the police from visiting West Bengal's Sandeshkhali, an area rocked by protests after a few women alleged torture and sexual assault by local Trinamool Congress leaders led by Sheikh Shahjahan.

The central delegation of the BJP was led by Union Minister Annapurna Devi. The delegation was stopped by hundreds of policemen at Ramnagar, citing prohibitory orders imposed in various areas of Sandeshkhali.

The members blocked the road and sat in protest for almost two hours. Later, the BJP leaders met Governor C. V. Ananda Bose.

"We will submit our report to our party," Ms. Devi told journalists. The delegation also alleged that the police were acting hand in glove with those committing atrocities on women.

The delegation addressing media. DEBASISH BHADURI

Mr. Chowdhury said he was visiting the area as a representative of a political party. "Why are Opposition parties being prevented from entering Sandeshkhali? What is the State government trying to hide?," he asked.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has said 17 persons had been arrested so far in connection with the violence. The police maintain that "no complaints of rape of women have so far been received".

Use Chabahar port, India tells Central Asian countries

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India has urged Central Asian countries to use the port of Chabahar located on the southeast coast of Iran to enhance connectivity and trade with India and other countries in the world.

Participating in the sixth Regional Dialogue of Secretaries of Security Councils/National Security Advisers on Afghanistan in Kyrgyz capital Bishkek, India's Deputy National Security Adviser Vikram Misri called for an "inclusive and representative" government in Afghanistan and said the approach towards the Taliban-ruled country should be based on consensus.

During his interaction with delegates from Iran, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, Mr. Misri invited "Central Asian neighbours to utilise the Chabahar port as well as the Shahid Beheshti terminal at the port for maritime trade with India and other countries of the world," said a source privy to the discussion that focused on terrorism, drug trafficking apart from connectivity in the region.

The Chabahar port is located on the southeast coast of Iran. FILE PHOTO

India has not recognised the Taliban outfit which came to power in August 2021 after the end of the U.S. occupation. Last November, the old embassy of Afghanistan that was being run by diplomats aligned with the old regime of President Ashraf Ghani shut down and the facilities have been taken over in Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad by diplomats who did not leave India.

The discussion at Bishkek came days after barely a fortnight after the head of the Indian 'technical team' at Kabul participated in a discussion in Kabul with the stakeholders in Afghanistan that was chaired by the Taliban's Foreign Minister' Amir Khan Muttaqi. India's participation at the regional discussion had raised eyebrows. On February 15, India highlighted 'legitimate economic and security interests in Afghanistan' and argued that New Delhi 'steadfast with its policy in support of peace, security and stability in Afghanistan.'

Immediate priorities

"Our common immediate priorities include providing humanitarian assistance, ensuring formation of a truly inclusive and representative government, combating terrorism and drug trafficking and preserving the rights of women, children and the minorities," the Indian side stated in Bishkek.

'Centre studying SC order on poll bonds'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after the Supreme Court struck down the electoral bonds scheme as unconstitutional, government sources said the order "was being studied".

While no precipitate action is being contemplated with the polls around the corner, the scheme had been brought to reduce black money in the electoral system, a source said.

"The election bonds scheme was brought in to reduce the magnitude of black money pre-2017, and inject white money into poll funding. That was the main aim of the scheme. Keeping information of donors anonymous was to provide comfort to the donors," said the source.

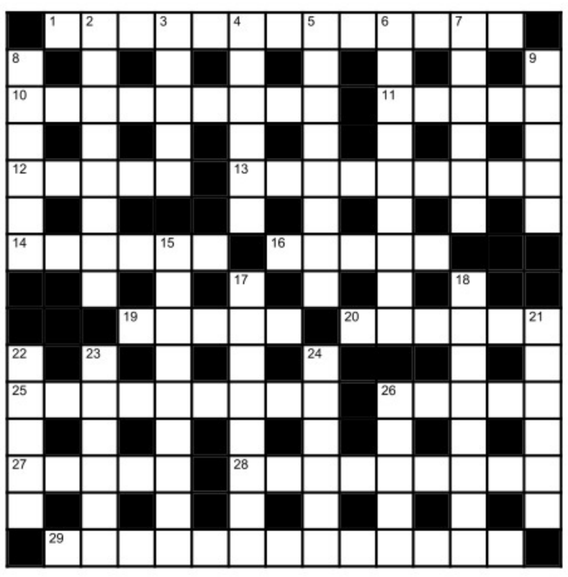
Asked if other models of poll funding like trusts that distribute contributions received by individuals to parties, were being looked at, the source said they had their "own challenges".

TH CROSSWORD + 14100

(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Source in soldiers' training field... (7,6)
10 ...surrendered as per heartless order in a bizarre decision primarily (9)
11 One taking cover from a mammal... (5)
12 ... allowed at Florida Keys, say (5)
13 Close school at Spain, talented one is expelled (9)
14 Rechristen king at England? Amen everywhere (6)
16 Unusual to let go of female for some rum that's diluted (5)
19 Marriage on 1/1/1 ending early (5)
20 Avoid fish fed with some yeast having phosphorus (6)
25 Use of money for a certain purpose for fringe characters to develop knocked often (4-5)
26 Singer seen in promos sabotaged shows in retribution (5)
27 Difficult to blend... (5)
28 ...all fats, kale tips possibly with petiole (9)
29 Only our fine to set free? No way (3,2,4,4)

Down

2 Relegate team position (8)
3 A small young horse with tip of tail clipped at racecourse (5)
4 Current and old top songs on television primarily (6)
5 Hermes's staff beat up accused stealing some umbricelli (8)
6 In Delhi, chacha and aunt frequently left yard in a soiled manner (9)
7 Delirious to leave London district stable (6)
8 Auditor with the help of last vendor got salmon eggs (6)
9 Wanted new idea to win first match (5)
15 Announcement by man & wife on losing weight before Easter essentially by order (9)
17 Make light of daughter's personal hobby (8)
18 Say, Sir John to lose control almost on employees (8)
21 Weird there's nothing good in spot (6)
22 Fraud seen in that rickshaw... (5)
23 ...completely in tatters primarily with glasses covering tension (2,4)
24 Fantastic lake right near university in a place in Ladakh (6)
26 Herb is basically bawling like a lady (5)

SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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Solution to previous puzzle

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I	N	S	I	S	T	S		E
N		A		T		T		T

A	P		L		H		A	
C	H	A	R	A	D	E		C
A	P		W		R		C	
C	L	E	A	N	S	E		R
I	R				I		E	
A	B	S	T	A	I	N	E	D
			G				I	
A	S	S	U	R	E	D		T
S		C		O		I		
S	W	A	I	N		S	E	M
A		B		O		T		U
S	H	I	M	M	E	R		S
S		O		I		U		K
I	N	S	I	S	T	S		E
N		A		T		T		T

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	2	4	3	8	9	1	5	6
3	5	9	6	1	4	2	8	7
6	1	8	7	2	5	4	9	3
8	9	5	4	6	2	3	7	1
2	3	7	8	5	1	9	6	4
4	6	1	9	7	3	8	2	5
9	7	3	5	4	8	6	1	2
1	4	6	2	9	7	5	3	8
5	8	2	1	3	6	7	4	9

FAITH

Caring for one's parents

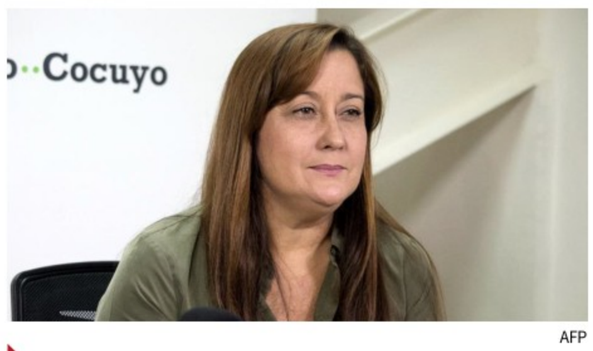
Dharma Sastras say that we should care for our parents, elaborated Sri Velukkudi Krishnan in a discourse. We should not analyse whether they are deserving of our respect and care. It may happen that some parents might have been irresponsible. But that is no reason to spurn them. The very fact that they are our parents is enough to merit our attention. There are people who do elaborate poojas, but fail to look after their parents. Of what use are their pujas, for is this not a violation of what the dharma sastras say? In fact, one should go beyond just one's parents, and help the larger extended family too.

When sage Vasistha requests Rama to return to Ayodhya, Rama tells him that it is imperative that we pay heed to our parents. He says that we can never adequately repay our parents for what they do for us. They think of their child's welfare all the time. They give the child oil baths, speak sweet words to him and provide him with nourishing food.

Lord Krishna says in the Bhagavad Gita that to give without expectation is the best form of daana. It is saatvika daana. Parents look after their children without expecting anything in return. What parents do for us is, therefore, saatvika daana. Santi Parva of Mahabharata stresses the importance to be given to one's parents.

CARACAS

Venezuela suspends UN rights office after detaining activist



AFP

Venezuela on Thursday suspended activities of the UN rights office in the country and ordered its staff to leave within 72 hours, days after authorities detained prominent activist Rocio San Miguel. The UN agency had expressed "deep concern" over the detention of the activist two days prior and called for her "immediate release." AFP

WASHINGTON

U.S. House of Representatives passes China-Tibet dispute Bill

AP

The House of Representatives has passed a Bill that will strengthen the efforts of the United States to push the Chinese government to resolve the longstanding Tibet-China dispute through dialogue with Tibetan leaders. It aims to pressure the Chinese government to resume negotiations with the Dalai Lama's envoys. PTI

ATHENS

Despite church opposition, Greece legalises same-sex marriages

AP

Greece on Thursday became the first Orthodox Christian country to legalise same-sex civil marriage, despite opposition from the conservative Greek Church. A cross-party majority of 176 MPs in the 300-seat parliament voted late in favour of the Bill drafted by Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis' centre-right government. AP

BERLIN

Ukriane's Zelenskyy signs 'historic' security agreement with Germany

AFP

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy signed a security deal with Germany on Friday in Berlin, hailed by Chancellor Olaf Scholz as a "historic step" anchoring sustained support for Kyiv in its raging battles against Russia. Zelensky will also seal a similar deal with France later on Friday as his forces struggle to retain Avdiivka. AFP

Israeli strikes in south Lebanon kills five extremists

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

Israeli strikes on targets in south Lebanon killed five fighters from Hezbollah and the allied Amal movement, the groups said on Friday, adding to an uptick in violence causing international alarm.

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency (NNA) said Israeli warplanes hit five villages in southern Lebanon overnight between Thursday and Friday.

Hezbollah's warning

Meanwhile, Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah vowed that Israel will pay "with blood" for civilians killed this week in Lebanon, warning his group has missiles that can reach Israel's far south.

Five patients die after Israeli forces seize Gaza hospital

They died after oxygen ran out in Khan Younis's Nasser Hospital that was stormed by troops; talks for ceasefire stall as Netanyahu rejects U.S.'s vision for a Palestinian state after the end of war

Associated Press
RAFAH

Five patients in intensive care died after their oxygen ran out in southern Gaza's main hospital that was stormed by Israeli troops, causing chaos for hundreds of staff and wounded people inside, health officials said on Friday. Troops were searching the complex, where the military said it believes the remains of hostages abducted by Hamas might be located.

The raid came after troops had besieged Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan Younis for nearly a week, with staff, patients and others inside struggling under heavy fire and dwindling supplies. The Israeli military said on Friday it had detained dozens from the facility, including some it alleged were involved in Hamas' October 7 attack on Israel.

Unrelenting pain: Mourners react near the bodies of Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes in Khan Younis on Friday. REUTERS

Also on Friday, an assailant opened fire at a bus stop on a busy intersection in southern Israel, killing two persons and wounding four before being shot dead by a bystander.

Negotiations over a ceasefire in Gaza, meanwhile, appear to have stalled, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday pushed back hard against the U.S. vision for after the war – particularly its calls for the creation of a Palestinian state. After speaking overnight with President Joe Biden, Mr. Netanyahu wrote on X that Israel will not accept "international dictates regarding a permanent settlement with the Palestinians."

Two Israeli airstrikes on Rafah overnight killed at least 13 persons, including nine members of the same family, according to hospital officials and relatives.

U.K. Conservatives suffer double election defeat

Agence France-Presse
WELLINGBOROUGH

Britain's ruling Conservatives lost two more parliamentary seats to Labour in by-elections on Friday, highlighting the mountain Prime Minister Rishi Sunak must climb to win a general election due this year.

The losses capped a dire week for the U.K. leader, struggling to revive support for his beleaguered party, as official data showed Britain is in recession after economic contraction for two successive quarters.

In power since 2010, the Conservatives are widely tipped by pollsters to lose the nationwide vote that 43-year-old Mr. Sunak has said will be held in the second half of the year.

Big implications: Labour Party MP Gen Kitchen after winning the byelection in Wellingborough in England on Friday. AFP

The main Labour opposition secured its second largest byelection swing away from the Conservatives in one of Thursday's contests, held after a Tory MP quit and another faced a recall petition over bullying his staff.

A record 21 by-elections have now been held since 2019, many as a result of misconduct committed by Tory MPs.

The defeats in Wellingborough, central England, and in Kingswood, in the southwest, were the Conservatives' ninth and tenth losses this parliament.

"People want change and are ready to put their faith in a changed Labour Party to deliver it," said its leader Keir Starmer as he hailed the "fantastic results".

UN says IS group poses a rising threat in Africa

Associated Press
UNITED NATIONS

The Islamic State extremist group poses a rising threat amid political instability in West Africa and the Sahel and remains intent on carrying out attacks abroad, the UN counter-terrorism chief said on Thursday.

Vladimir Voronkov reiterated UN findings that the IS continues to pose a significant threat to international peace and security, especially in conflict zones, despite significant progress by UN member nations in countering the threat. The group has also increased operations in its former strongholds in Iraq and Syria as well as Southeast Asia, Mr. Voronkov said.

Mr. Voronkov told the UN Security Council that in West Africa and the Sahel, a broad region cutting across the continent, the situation has deteriorated "and is becoming more complex," as local ethnic and regional disputes cross with the agenda and operations of the extremist group, which is also known by its Arabic name Daesh, and its affiliates.

Natalia Gherman, executive director of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, said: "They are exploiting the political instability and expanding their radius of influence, their operations and territorial control in the Sahel, with growing concerns for coastal West Africa."

"The African continent now accounts for almost half of terrorist acts worldwide, with central Sahel accounting for about 25% of such attacks," she told the council.

Army cracks down on leaders of Imran's PTI party in Pakistan

Press Trust of India
LAHORE

The objective is to force the winners of elections to shift their loyalties to parties backed by the military

A fresh round of crackdown has been launched allegedly by the Pakistan Army against jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's party in a bid to put pressure on the winners in the elections to change their loyalties to parties backed by the powerful military.

The confrontation between Mr. Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the military establishment comes after the party won the lion's share in the general elections in Pakistan on February 8.

The police arrested successful independent candidates backed by the PTI, and conducted raids on their properties across Punjab province, party sources said.

Arrest warrants have been issued for the PTI-nominated candidates for the slot of Chief Minister in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

Besides, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has summoned Imran Khan's sister Aleema Khan for inciting the public against the state.

Ayub's pre-arrest bail

PTI's Prime Minister candidate Omar Ayub on Friday secured a pre-arrest bail from a local court to anticipate his possible arrest in any unknown case to stop him from going to parliament to compete against Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz-led six-party alliance candidate Shehbaz Sharif for the coveted slot of Prime Minister.

Mr. Omar said that PTI-backed MNA (Member of the National Assembly) from Sialkot, Aslam Ghumman, had been abducted by unknown people, referring towards intelligence agencies.

"Ghumman is being forced to leave PTI and join PML-N. Condemn this rigging process and enforced disappearances in the strongest words possible," Mr. Ayub said on X (formerly Twitter).

In Lahore, the police have arrested PTI-backed MPA-elect Ahmar Rasheed Bhatti from Raiwind in connection with the May 9 riots cases. The police's post-election action came when the PTI was celebrating his victory at his outhouse.

Dozens of military and state buildings, including the Army headquarters in Rawalpindi and the ISI building in Faisalabad, were torched and vandalised by many PTI activists during the unprecedented violence that broke out after Mr. Khan's arrest in an alleged corruption case on May 9 last year.

Similarly, the Punjab police raided the factories, mills and godowns of PTI-backed MNAs-elect from Gujranwala and sealed them.

The Punjab police issued fresh warrants for PTI leader Aslam Iqbal in May 9 cases.

Mr. Iqbal is the PTI candidate for Punjab chief minister against PML-N's Maryam Nawaz who is the daughter of Nawaz Sharif.

Myammar's new law may trigger mass exodus

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Myanmar's plans for conscription has triggered fear that it may create a new wave of exodus of young Myanmar nationals leaving for neighbouring countries in the south and Southeast Asia.

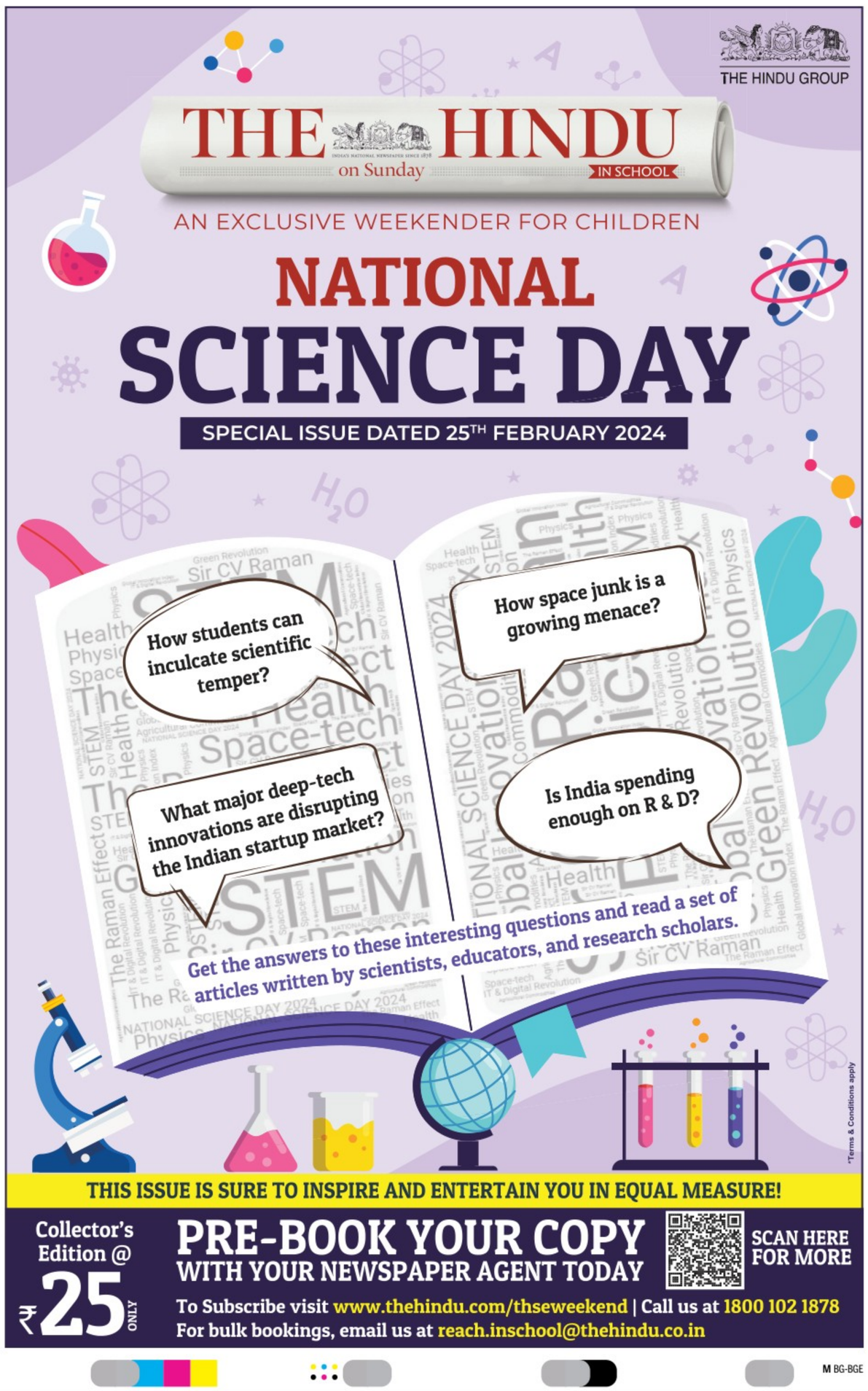
The announcement of conscription that took place during the last weekend has made it compulsory for all Myanmar male citizens in the age group of 18 to 35 to join the armed forces as the military junta deals with countrywide insurgency that has freed large parts of the provinces like Arakan, Chin, Kachin, and Sagaing and a few areas in the southeast of the country near the Thai-Myanmar border.

Grim picture

Sources in the democratic opposition of Myanmar who spoke on condition of anonymity painted a grim internal picture of Myanmar and said the situation could get out of control as the desperate military rulers in Naypyidaw tries to reclaim areas that it lost to groups like the Arakan Army.

Already a trickle of soldiers from Myanmar have been seeking refuge in Bangladesh and India over the past few months and both New Delhi and Dhaka have been in talks with the junta to return the soldiers who have been entering Indian and Bangladesh territory seeking refuge.

Myanmar has flown air sorties to retrieve its soldiers from Mizoram. However such sorties are increasingly becoming difficult for the junta as it faces constraints.


THE HINDU GROUP
THE HINDU on Sunday IN SCHOOL
AN EXCLUSIVE WEEKENDER FOR CHILDREN
NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY
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How students can inculcate scientific temper?
How space junk is a growing menace?
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INBRIEF

VW Group, M&M ink supply chain pact for EV parts

German automotive major Volkswagen Group and Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. on Friday announced their first supply agreement for electric vehicle components under their joint vision for electric mobility collaboration. Under the agreement, Mahindra will become the first external partner to use Volkswagen's "groundbreaking unified cell concept", the core element of its battery strategy, the two companies said in a joint statement. PTI

India said to resume Sokol oil purchase after 2-month hiatus

India has resumed imports of Russian Sokol oil after a two-month gap with at least 2 refiners so far taking deliveries of the light sweet crude in February, four trade sources said, data showed. HPCL has bought Sokol oil from a trader, the sources said. HPCL is likely to pay for the oil in UAE dirhams, three of them said. Indian state refiners had to stop buying the grade last year after the government advised them against using Chinese yuan to pay for Russian oil. REUTERS

India begins anti-dumping probe on Chinese solar glass

India has initiated an anti-dumping probe into imports of certain solar glass from China and Vietnam, following a complaint by domestic players. The commerce ministry's investigation arm Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) is probing the alleged dumping of 'Textured Tempered Coated and Uncoated Glass' made or from China and Vietnam. The product is also known by various names such as solar glass or solar photovoltaic glass in market parlance. PTI

RBI lets Paytm Payments Bank users deposit, pay via wallets till March 15

Banking regulator extends earlier stipulated deadline of February 29; RBI also directs the Paytm unit to facilitate withdrawals of available balance from all accounts and wallets, excluding the ones frozen by law enforcement agencies

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given Paytm Payments Bank customers and users of its wallets time till March 15 (instead of February 29 stipulated earlier) to make deposits and access credit transactions.

After that date no further deposits, credit transactions or top-ups would be allowed in customer accounts, prepaid instruments, wallets, FASTags, etc., other than any interest, cashbacks, sweep in from partner banks or refunds, the RBI said in a circular issued on Friday.

Making it clear: The RBI on Friday issued FAQs to offer better understanding of the impact of its January directive. FILE PHOTO

No banking services other than fund transfers, Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU) and UPI facility would be provided by the bank after March 15.

The RBI has directed the bank to facilitate withdrawals of available balance from all accounts and wallets, excluding the ones that are frozen or lien marked by law enforcement or judicial authorities.

"Further, it is directed that the bank shall facilitate a seamless withdrawal of customer deposits that are parked with partner banks under the automatic 'sweep-in sweep-out' facility without causing any inconvenience to such customers," the central bank said in the circular.

Separately, Paytm said it had shifted its nodal account to Axis Bank to "continue seamless merchant settlements as before".

For a better understanding of the impact of its January 29 directive, the RBI has uploaded a detailed list of FAQs on its website.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	72,427	0.52
US Dollar	83.01	0.04
Gold	62,450	0.28
Brent oil	83.12	0.73

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3223.60	29.80
Adani Ports	1306.85	39.80
Apollo Hosp	6600.55	-27.05
Asian Paints	3007.90	-8.65
Axis Bank	1068.75	-3.45
Bajaj Auto	8325.05	202.00
Bajaj Finserv	1575.90	6.50
Bajaj Finance	6619.20	-0.20
Bharti Airtel	1120.00	-0.70
BPCL	654.60	1.85
Britannia Ind	4913.70	-36.85
Cipla	1440.70	18.35
Coal India	480.00	3.15
Divis Lab	3729.20	20.35
Dr Reddys Lab	6317.15	64.50
Eicher Motors	3928.65	12.10
Grasim Ind	2105.65	20.85
HCL Tech	1667.45	4.90
HDFC Bank	1419.90	5.85
HDFC Life	592.45	7.35
Hero MotoCorp	4894.30	77.35
Hindalco	515.70	2.50
Hind Unilever	2375.25	24.40
ICICI Bank	1023.25	6.60
IndusInd Bank	1493.65	16.70
Infosys	1701.65	25.30
ITC	404.60	0.70
JSW Steel	819.95	7.60
Kotak Bank	1735.25	-4.00
L&T	3386.75	86.45
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5580.40	58.10
M&M	1835.55	70.50
Maruti Suzuki	11380.40	290.15
NestleIndia	2487.65	34.10
NTPC	337.75	-1.50
ONGC	274.70	-2.60
PowerGrid Corp	274.55	-7.10
Reliance Ind	2921.15	-20.05
SBI Life	1508.45	55.10
State Bank	754.70	-7.00
Sun Pharma	1509.95	0.05
TataConsumerProduct	1147.45	16.05
Tata Motors	938.60	18.05
Tata Steel	142.30	1.10
TCS	4128.30	25.10
Tech Mahindra	1302.55	2.20
Titan	3655.40	33.35
UltraTech Cement	9916.20	101.90
UPL	490.90	3.55
Wipro	543.00	24.50

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 16

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.82	83.14
Euro	89.14	89.49
British Pound	104.23	104.64
Japanese Yen (100)	55.11	55.32
Chinese Yuan	11.51	11.56
Swiss Franc	93.96	94.33
Singapore Dollar	61.51	61.76
Canadian Dollar	61.44	61.68
Malaysian Ringitt	17.31	17.41
Australian Dollar	54.02	54.23

Source:Indian Bank

SBI in talks with RBI to lower CRR on green deposits

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

State Bank of India (SBI) chairman Dinesh Khara on Friday said that the national lender was in talks with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to reduce the cash reserve ratio (CRR) requirement on green deposits.

The country's largest public sector lender had last month announced a green deposit scheme – a first in the domestic banking – to attract long-term retail deposits to be used only to fund green transition projects or climate-friendly projects.

SpiceJet's Singh vies with UAE-based Sky One in bidding for Go First

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

SpiceJet promoter Ajay Singh and Sharjah-based aviation company Sky One on Friday submitted competing bids for bankrupt airline Go First.

Mr. Singh, who is the chairman and managing director of the publicly held company that operates the budget carrier, submitted a bid in his personal capacity along with Busy Bee Airways Private Limited, which counts among its largest shareholders Nishant Pitti, a co-founder of the travel booking portal EaseMyTrip.

Ajay Singh

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) had on February 13 granted a second extension for Go First's corporate insolvency resolution process -- giving it another 60 days until April 4. The committee of creditors would now meet to vote on the resolution plan submitted by the bidders, which would then be presented before the insolvency court, said people closely involved with the process who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Mr. Singh's acquisition of Go First, if successful, would lead to "synergies between the two carriers, leading to improved cost management, revenue growth, and a strengthened market position within the Indian aviation industry," SpiceJet said in a statement. It added that the airline operator's role as the "operating partner" for the revived carrier would involve providing essential staff, services, and industry expertise.

SpiceJet had only recently announced cost-cutting measures to save up to ₹100 crore. The measures included plans to lay off up to 1,400 staff members.

"Go First comes with coveted slots at domestic and international airports, international traffic rights and a substantial user base, which makes it a reliable bet for us," Sky One's chairman Jaideep Mirchandani said in a statement.

Go First suspended operations in May and approached NCLT for voluntary insolvency resolution.

SPIC Q3 net shrinks 67% on floods, costs

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Southern petrochemical Industries Corporation Ltd. (SPIC) reported Q3 standalone net profit contracted year-on-year by 67% to ₹28 crore on account of an increase in global raw-material prices and the recent cyclone.

Income from operations declined to ₹504 crore from ₹696 crore, said the fertilizer manufacturer.

The Urea plant was in operation for 74 days. SPIC produced and sold 1.45 lakh tonne and 1.46 lakh tonne of urea respectively. SPIC received a subsidy of ₹406 crore based on provisional Retention Price.

Following floods, the Tuticorin plant suffered a loss of raw-material inventory, work-in-progress, finished goods and stores and spares worth ₹19 crore.

Ashwin Muthiah

"The devastating cyclone and subsequent plant damage in Tuticorin led to a complete stoppage of work for a few weeks," Chairman Ashwin Muthiah said. "However, the plant has restarted. Moving towards natural gas usage will rationalise input cost."

SPIC also faced raw material and price volatility in global fertilizer markets.

'Tech CEOs see revenue uptick in H2 of FY24 despite headwinds'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Tech CEOs in the country were expecting a revenue growth uptick in the second half of the current fiscal despite continued macroeconomic headwinds for FY2025, industry apex body National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) said on Friday.

With a roughly 50% slide in tech spending and a 6% decline in tech contracts in 2023 globally, the Indian tech industry, similar to global markets, was currently navigating a tough terrain, stated NASSCOM's Strategic Review.

Yet, growing at 3.8%, the industry was expected to add $9.3 billion incremental revenue and the total industry revenue (including hardware sales) was anticipated at $253.9 billion in FY2024, the study said.

Keeping steady: The tech industry is expected to add $9.3 billion in incremental revenue in FY2024. REUTERS

Brighter future

Rajesh Nambiar, Chairperson, NASSCOM, said, "While headwinds like global economic slowdown, inflation, recessionary fears, and geopolitical conflicts continue to pose challenges, we are confident that the industry will bounce back."

With digital tech spending expected to grow in 2024, the country's tech sector would also witness the emergence of alternative demand sources, customer retention, and faster go-to-market strategies in newer markets for enterprises, he added.

India's tech industry, like global markets, is navigating a tough terrain, says NASSCOM

On her outlook for next year, Debjani Ghosh, President, NASSCOM said, "We do see FY2025 as the year of capability building as the new normal. Navigating the current challenges will require the industry to focus on 4Rs: Reshape, Reskill, Rewire growth and Raise IP and Research & Development investments."

SHFL aims to double disbursements in Maharashtra: MD

N. Anand
CHENNAI

Sundaram Home Finance Ltd. (SHFL) said it aims to double home loan disbursements in Maharashtra to ₹450 crore next year.

"In Maharashtra, we have presence in Pune, Nashik and Nagpur outside Mumbai region. We registered annual disbursements of over ₹225 crore," said MD D. Lakshminarayanan.

As part of the expansion plan, SHFL recently opened a second home loan branch in Navi Mumbai (Mumbai region) and plans to add two more branches. It will add 25 jobs in Maharashtra to take the headcount to 100 over the next 12 months. "We currently disburse home loans of about ₹100 crore annually in the Mumbai region and believe we can double this, next year," he said. Asserting that Mumbai was the largest and fastest growing real estate market in the country, he said that the company would continue to focus on the mid-range housing segment in Mumbai.

D. Lakshminarayanan

'Bangladesh apparel exports via Delhi hits India shipments'

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

Apparel exports, that slid 3.46 % year-on-year in January, are facing more challenges as 20-30 truckloads of cargo are entering the Delhi Air Cargo Complex every day from Bangladesh for transhipment to third countries.

According to Sudhir Sekhri, Chairman of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), the continuing Red Sea crisis had raised logistical costs for exporters while leading to a shift in the mode of shipping consignments from sea to air. Permitting Bangladeshi cargo transshipment from Delhi Air Cargo Terminal at this juncture had only increased logistical challenges and transportation costs for Indian apparel exporters.

Almost 20-30 loaded trucks from Bangladesh arrive in New Delhi every day slowing down cargo movement and the airlines were taking undue advantage of this, he alleged. It had led to a steep rise in air-freight rates, delayed handling and processing of export cargo and congestion at the cargo terminal.

The AEPC, hence, requested the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs to suspend the implementation of a circular dated February 7, 2023 permitting the transshipment of Bangladesh export cargo via Delhi Airport.

Earlier, such transhipment of Bangladesh export cargo was allowed only via Kolkata Air Cargo Complex. Textile and apparel exports contracted 2.29% year-on-year in January.

RBI must probe loan-to-value norms: gold loan firms

K. Ram Kumar
MUMBAI

The Association of Gold Loan Companies has urged the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to examine violations by some banks' branches of the norm that caps the amount of loan that can be given against the pledge of gold jewellery.

The plea comes in the backdrop of banks sustaining focus on growing gold-loan portfolio even after the RBI's temporary relaxation (from August 6, 2020 to March 31, 2021) in the LTV (loan-to-value) norm ended.

"We have taken up the matter with the regulator because some of the banks (both public and private sectors) and some of their branches violating the LTV norm," said George Alexander Muthoot, MD, Muthoot Finance.

He emphasised the 75% LTV norm (that is the loan amount cannot exceed 75% of the value of the collateral) is uniform across banks and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs).

The RBI had raised the permissible LTV norm for banks against pledge of gold ornaments and jewellery for non-agricultural purposes to 90% from 75% in August 2020 to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on households. The LTV relaxation was available only till March 31, 2021.

"Some of the bank branches are lending gold loans up to 80-90. This is something the bank branches are violating," Mr. Muthoot, also President of the Association, said. He also flagged the issue of customers without agricultural activity taking agricultural loans. "These are all bank/branch-specific cases that adds to business," Mr. Muthoot said.

'The 75% loan to value norm is uniform for lenders and non-banking finance companies'

Banks are now focusing more on agriculture gold loans as it gives them the benefit of priority sector lending classification and recovery in case of default is relatively easier. Growth in gold loans in the non-agriculture segment continues apace.

Gold-loan growth

According to a Crisil Market Intelligence and Analytics Research report, gold loan finance saw a CAGR of 15% between fiscal 2018 and 2022, led by stable gold prices and a surge in gold loan offtake from NBFCs during the pandemic. Credit growth is estimated to have moderated to 5-7% in fiscal 2023 before recovering to 10-12% in fiscal 2024, as per the report.

As at March-end 2022, banks' and NBFCs collectively had outstanding gold loans of ₹₹5,09,400 crore. Of this, banks' and NBFCs shares stood at 78% and 22% respectively.

"The competitive position of banks resulted in them capturing a major share of the segment, which led to growth moderating for NBFCs. That said, NBFCs are expanding reach and clientele to regain market share amid fierce competition from banks and new-age fintech companies," it was said in the report.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

THE LANDMARKS

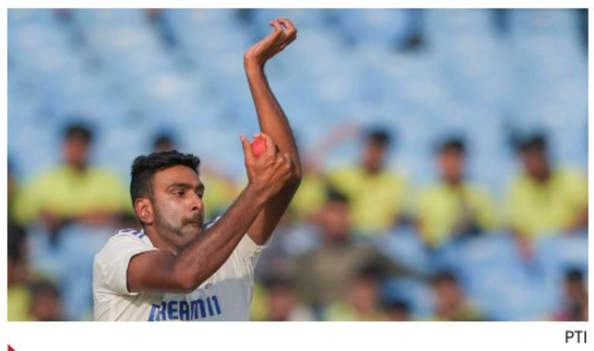
Ashwin's wicket journey in 100s: from the first to the 500th

THE HINDU ARCHIVES

R. Ashwin's maiden wicket in Tests was WI batter Darren Bravo in 2011 in New Delhi. His 100th was WI's Darren Sammy in the 2013 Mumbai Test. Kiwi Kane Williamson was Ashwin's 200th scalp (Kanpur, 2016) and Sri Lankan Lahiru Gamage his 300th (Nagpur, 2017). Jofra Archer was his 400th (Ahmedabad, 2021) wicket.

THE MASTER

Ashwin is a professor of spin bowling, says Swann



PTI

Former England off-spinner Greame Swann paid tribute to R. Ashwin. "It's very difficult for people but not Ashwin. His character demands that. He is a student of the game... like a professor of spin bowling," said Swann on Ashwin's tendency to experiment and evolve. "Ashwin has got the cleanest action since me," he added.

SKILL AND WILL

'He used to tell us to look for excellence and not just survive'

VIJAY SONEJI

R. Ashwin's Tamil Nadu teammates heaped praise on him. "I have seen him grow with courage, intelligence, and skill in every stage of his career," said L. Balaji. "What he has achieved is unbelievable. I always remember that he used to tell us to look for excellence and not just survive," said Vijay Shankar.

UNINTENTIONAL

I would've been in Olympics, why play cricket: Ashwin

GETTY IMAGES

When R. Ashwin ran on the dangerous area, the umpires awarded England five penalty runs. "If the English media and players think it was on purpose, it wasn't. Those spikes are wafer thin. I went to Joel and Kumar (the umpires) and said it's pure motor skills. If I was any better, I would've been in Olympics. Why play cricket!" Ashwin said.

Ashwin's 500th Test scalp takes centrestage on engrossing day

India swells its total to 445; debutant Jurel scores 46, while Wood finishes with a four-wicket haul; opener Duckett's aggressive, unbeaten century helps England reach 207 for two; Ashwin withdraws from Test for family emergency

ENGLAND IN INDIA

Amol Karhadkar
RAJKOT

Milestone moment: Ashwin did not have wait for long to achieve the feat as he got rid of Crawley in his second over. GETTY IMAGES

When a feature film trudges along till the interval, suddenly picks up pace and even has a memorable scene and a great climax, it seldom has takers. That's where live sport differs from a work of fiction. The same was on display in plenty on the second day of the third Test between India and England.

After the proceedings of the first half plodded long at the Niranjan Shah Stadium, a stark contrast was witnessed later on Friday. A milestone moment that the cricket world eagerly awaited since the start of the series came into reality.

As much as R. Ashwin scaling Mt. 500 – only the second Indian bowler to do so – the day's play will be remembered for England opener Ben Duckett's unbeaten blitzkrieg. As a result, after India's late-order frustrated England before being bowled out for 445, England sprinted to 207 for two in just 35 overs to leave a tantalising weekend on the cards for the cricket fans.

Duckett started off his flurry with a backfoot punch off pacers. And surviving the six-over spell before tea despite adopting a hit-and-miss approach, Duckett was at his finest when it came to executing high-risk shots.

The left-hander swept – occasionally reverse-swept – Kuldeep Yadav's Cinaman out of attack. Even after Ashwin was introduced into the attack, he continued to target the on-side – against turn, although the pitch hardly had anything to offer – and swept with panache.

Just when Zak Crawley had started opening his arms up, the moment of reckoning came in the eighth over of the last session.

Crawley's attempted sweep off Ashwin resulted in a top-edge and Rajat Patidar at short fine-leg accepted the catch neatly to make the off-spinner only the second Indian bowler – ninth overall – to achieve the feat. The landmark led to each of the India teammember congratulating him and the rest of the stadium – including Anil Kumble, the only other Indian to have achieved it who was commentating – giving him a standing ovation.

Duckett though was unperturbed as he continued his spree. Even in the 90s, he first creamed Jasprit Bumrah along the ground for a four and then completed his third hundred in the next over with another on-drive off Mohammed Siraj.

Ollie Pope joined the act as he played an audacious reverse-scoop off Ravindra Jadeja over the 'keeper's head. While Siraj got Pope with an incoming delivery, Duckett marched on. If he had not survived a close lbw shout that could not be confirmed due to DRS, India would have breathed easy by close of play.

Earlier in the morning, despite losing Kuldeep and Jadeja early on, Ashwin and debutant wicketekeeper Dhruv Jurel frustrated the England fielders with a 71-run partnership.

The most happening action during India's batting essay was when Ashwin was found running between the wickets in the danger area. Since Jadeja was guilty of the same offence on the opening day, the umpires awarded five runs to England.

India down to 10 men for rest of Rajkot Test

Hours after celebrating his 500th Test wicket, Ashwin withdrew from the Test squad due to a medical emergency at home. "In these challenging times, the BCCI and the team fully supports Ashwin," secretary Jay Shah said in a statement. India will have to play with 10 men for the rest of the Rajkot Test as a substitute is not allowed

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS

Yashasvi Jaiswal c Root b Wood 10 *(10b, 2x4)*, Rohit Sharma c Stokes b Wood 131 *(196b, 14x4, 3x6)*, Shubman Gill c Foakes b Wood 0 *(9b)*, Rajat Patidar c Duckett b Hartley 5 *(15b, 1x4)*, Ravindra Jadeja c & b Root 112 *(225b, 9x4, 2x6)*, Sarfaraz Khan run out 62 *(66b, 9x4, 1x6)*, Kuldeep Yadav c Foakes b Anderson 4 *(24b)*, Dhruv Jurel c Foakes b Rehan 46 *(104b, 2x4, 3x6)*, R. Ashwin c Anderson b Rehan 37 *(89b, 6x4)*, Jasprit Bumrah lbw b Wood 26 *(28b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Mohammed Siraj (not out) 3 *(21b)*; Extras (b-2, lb-4, nb-2, w-1): 9; Total (in 130.5 overs): 445.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-22 (Jaiswal, 3.5 overs), 2-24 (Gill, 5.4), 3-33 (Patidar, 8.5), 4-237 (Rohit, 63.3), 5-314 (Sarfaraz, 81.5), 6-331 (Kuldeep, 89.4), 7-331 (Jadeja, 90.5), 8-408 (Ashwin, 119.6), 9-415 (Jurel, 123.5).

ENGLAND BOWLING

Anderson 25-7-61-1, Wood 27.5-2-114-4, Hartley 40-7-109-1, Root 16-3-70-1, Rehan 22-2-85-2.

ENGLAND — 1ST INNINGS

Zak Crawley c Patidar b Ashwin 15 *(28b, 2x4)*, Ben Duckett (batting) 133 *(118b, 21x4, 2x6)*, Ollie Pope lbw b Siraj 39 *(55b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Joe Root (batting) 9 *(13b, 1x4)*; Extras (b-1, lb-1, nb-4, pen-5): 11; Total (for two wkts. in 35 overs): 207.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-89 (Crawley, 13.1), 2-182 (Pope, 29.6).

INDIA BOWLING

Bumrah 8-0-34-0, Siraj 10-1-54-1, Kuldeep 6-1-42-0, Ashwin 7-0-37-1, Jadeja 4-0-33-0.

Ashwin has carved a niche in his own unique way

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
CHENNAI

In the oriental land of spin with its legacy further embellished through the famous quartet led by Bishan Singh Bedi, the slow-art's conveyor belt had additional luminaries like Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh. Among these Indian stalwarts of guile and the wicked grin, R. Ashwin has carved his unique niche and 'Mount 500' in Tests is the latest milestone to greet the off-spinner.

Dismissing England opener Zak Crawley to register his 500th wicket during the Test at Rajkot, Ashwin's success had an inevitable air. After Kumble's 619 scalps, Ashwin is placed second among Indians and, among all, he occupies the ninth slot with Aussie Nathon Lyon (517) just a touch ahead.

The man from Chennai has charted his own path, being a constant bugbear to rival batters and like the late maestro Shane Warne, Ashwin plays an evangelical role in promoting spin. He will hint at new mystical products buzzing from his twitchy fingers and cultivate an air of mystery.

Having made his Test debut in 2011, he is intrinsic to the Test XI. At times overseas, the odd musical-chairs have been played with Ravindra Jadeja but the same fate did affect the duopoly of Kumble and Harbhajan too. To last this long and stay fit despite his 37 summers reveals Ashwin's fierce desire to compete.

Even non-strikers are wary about him as he will quickly whip the bails off if they stray. It reflects Ashwin's game-awareness. He has held his own with the bat too, scoring critical runs.

Having done the hard yards in domestic cricket and catching the eye through his exploits in the Indian Premier League, Ashwin, the Test star, has a durability that may have eluded him in his later years in the blue shade. Yet, he forced his way back into the national squad during last year's World Cup in India.

Forging a potent combination with various fellow-spinners including his latest partner Jadeja, Ashwin has consistently delivered for India. To get to 500 in his 98th Test is a measure of his remarkable consistency. It also helps that he is a multi-dimensional personality.

He does these free-flowing conversations in the digital space, with athletes, actors and members of the public. There is always a ticking mind. More laurels are in store, especially his 100th Test, but for now Ashwin will look back at a splendid career which has more chapters in store.

People doubted whether I could be a Test bowler. 10-13 years later, not bad.
ASHWIN

Ashwin scales Mt. 500

Ashwin became the second Indian after Kumble to reach the milestone of 500 wickets in Tests.
A look at the elite club and the off-spinner's remarkable journey.

THE 500-CLUB

	M	Inns	Wkts
Muralitharan	133	230	800
Warne	145	273	708
Anderson	185	344*	696
Kumble	132	236	619
Broad	167	309	604
McGrath	124	243	563
Walsh	132	242	519
Lyon	127	238	517
Ashwin	98	184*	500

ASHWIN'S TEST RECORD SO FAR

	M	Inns	Wkts	BBI	BBM	SR	5WI/10WM
Overall	98	184	500	7/59	13/140	51.4	34/8
Home	58	112	347	7/59	13/140	46.7	26/6
Away	39	70	149	7/71	12/131	62.8	8/2
Neutral#	1	2	4	2/17	4/45	37.5	0/0

#WTC final vs. New Zealand in England, 2021

BY OPPONENT

	M	Inns	Wkts	BBI	BBM	SR	5WI/10WM
Australia	22	42	114	7/103	12/198	62.8	7/1
England	22	40	98	6/55	12/167	60.8	6/1
West Indies	13	25	75	7/71	12/131	42.1	6/1
New Zealand	9	17	66	7/59	13/140	35.7	6/3
Sri Lanka	11	21	62	6/46	10/160	43.9	3/1
South Africa	14	26	57	7/66	12/98	53.0	5/1
Bangladesh	6	11	23	5/87	6/137	53.8	1/0
Afghanistan	1	2	5	4/27	5/59	23.6	0/0

* till the end of day 2 of Rajkot Test

SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO

'I don't exactly know where to begin because I was an accidental spinner'

Amol Karhadkar
RAJKOT

Over the last decade, along with a batter who is missing from the ongoing series for personal reasons, he has been the milestone man of Indian cricket. Soon after adding another feather to his cap – that of becoming only the second Indian and ninth bowler ever to earn 500 Test wickets – R. Ashwin was content and stressed he isn't interested in setting his eyes on Mt. 620.

The only other bowler with more Test wickets than him is Anil Kumble, the legendary leg-spinner. But Ashwin is not even thinking of getting closer to Kumble's tally of 619 wickets. "No, that's 120 wickets away. You know I'm 37-years-old. I don't know what's in store next or what's in store in the next two months. You play this series, and then what lies ahead, You really don't know. I have kept it this way for the last four-five years. And it's worked for me. Why change anything that's working for you?"

Ashwin reflected on his achievement. "It's been a very long journey. I don't exactly know where to begin because I was an accidental spinner. I wanted to be a batter all along. Life gave me a chance, and when I walked into the CSK dressing room, Muttiah Muralitharan didn't want to bowl with the new ball, and eventually I got tossed the new ball," Ashwin recalled.

"I had a reasonable First Class start to my life, but nevertheless, the stage in the IPL made me visible to a lot of people, and I eventually got my Test debut. People doubted whether I could be a Test bowler, and yeah, 10-13 years later, not bad. Not a bad achievement, so I'm pretty glad."

Ashwin admitted on having "fought a level of perception" not just on the cricket field but "in my life". "In the last five-six years, I have actually not cared about it (what others think of me). I can't keep proving everybody wrong or I can't prove everybody right. I am glad that somebody is happy and somebody is not, but I need to be happy."

"I am in a really good space in my life and I want this to continue, and I don't want to let go of the love for the game. At one point in my life, I was in a really dark space, and I didn't want to watch the game, and that's not where I want to go in my life ever again."

Congratulations to Ravichandran Ashwin on the extraordinary milestone of taking 500 Test wickets! His journey and accomplishments are a testament to his skill and perseverance
NARENDRA MODI, PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

Breaking records and crafting dreams, that's Chennai's own boy. With every turn, he weaves a tale of determination and skill, marking a truly spintacular milestone!
M.K. STALIN, CHIEF MINISTER OF TAMIL NADU

500 Test wickets for a one-in-a-million bowler! In Ashwin the spinner, there was always a winner. Congratulations, champion! . — **SACHIN TENDULKAR**

A champion bowler who never stops to learn. Congratulations on this monumental achievement! Wonderful to see another Indian spinner joining the club
ANIL KUMBLE

Congratulations on reaching the incredible 500 Test wickets mark! Seeing your journey up close has been an absolute privilege
CHETESHWAR PUJARA

Outstanding achievement to pick up No. 500. Amazing consistency through the years. Many congratulations, Ash
VIRENDER SEHWAG

Ash Anna!! What a legend!! 500 and counting. —
YUZVENDRA CHAHAL

INBRIEF

Steelers best Pirates at home to seal a playoff spot

Haryana Steelers claimed the final playoff spot after beating Patna Pirates 39-32 in a Pro Kabaddi League Season 10 match in Panchkula on Friday. Siddharth Desai (12 raid points) and Rahul Sethpal (8 tackle points) excelled for Steelers, while Thiyagarajan Yuvaraj (6 tackle points) and Sanjay (5 tackle points) shone for Pirates. In the second match, Jaipur Pink Panthers got the better of Telugu Titans 51-44.

New Zealand claims first Test series win over South Africa

Kane Williamson hit an unbeaten 133, his 32nd Test century, and shared in an unbeaten stand of 152 with Will Young as New Zealand chased down a victory target of 267 to beat South Africa by seven wickets on the fourth day of the second Test on Friday at Hamilton and clinch a first ever series win over the Proteas.

The scores: South Africa 242 & 235 lost to New Zealand 211 & 269/3 in 94.2 overs (Williamson 133 n.o., Young 60 n.o.). *New Zealand wins series 2-0.*

Enabler not to take part in Indian Turf Invitation Cup

Trainer Malesh Narredu told *The Hindu* that his ward Enabler, the winner of the Indian Derby 2024, will not participate in the Indian Turf Invitation Cup to be held at Kolkata on March 3, as he has contracted a lung infection on arrival at Kolkata after a three-day journey from Mumbai.

Manu Gandas wins the PGTI Players' Championship

Manu Gandas' fine six-under 64 in the final round enabled him to record a two-stroke win in the Rs 1 crore Tata Steel PGTI Players' Championship at the Tollygunge Club golf course in Kolkata on Friday. Gandas, joint second after three rounds, totaled 20-under 260 to take his eighth career title. Overnight leader Rahil Gangjee was second spot after carding 68.

The scores (fourth round): **260**-Manu Gandas (65, 67, 64, 64); **262**-Rahil Gangjee (65, 65, 64, 68); **263**-Akshay Sharma (67, 67, 64, 65); **264**-Stepan Danek (64, 66, 67, 67), Saptak Talwar (66, 65, 65, 68).

South Korea sacks Klinsmann after Asian Cup loss

The Korea Football Association (KFA) said on Friday it had sacked National team coach Juergen Klinsmann after the semifinal exit at the Asian Cup and amid criticism of his leadership. Klinsmann expressed his "sincere gratitude" to his players, staff and fans in an Instagram post.

LIVE TELECAST

Australia Women vs South Africa Women: Only Test, day 3, Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8.30 a.m.

Ranji Trophy: Jio Cinema, 9.30 a.m.

India vs England: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema, 9.30 a.m.

ISL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 5.30 & 7.30 p.m.

Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6, 8.30 & 11 p.m.

PVL: Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 6.30 p.m.

LaLiga: Jio Cinema, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema, 1.30 a.m. (Sunday)

Sri Lanka vs Afghanistan: 1st T20I, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 p.m.

Serie A: Jio Cinema, 7.30, 10.30 p.m. & Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema, 1.15 a.m. (Sunday)

Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8 & 11 p.m.

PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8 p.m.

Kaila's determined knock props up Chandigarh's innings

The southpaw shows tremendous patience to blunt the Karnataka attack after the host's bowlers rock the visitors' top-order

RANJI TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
HUBBALLI

A fighting 79 by Chandigarh's Karan Kaila kept Karnataka at bay on the first day of their Ranji Trophy encounter here on Friday.

Kaila's 340-minute vigil rescued Chandigarh from a precarious 37 for three and the visitor would be pleased to finish the day on 219 for six. The southpaw showed tremendous patience to blunt the Karnataka attack.

Dogged innings: Kaila played responsibly and stitched together valuable stands. KIRAN BAKLE

Falling short

Kaila, playing his ninth First-Class match, fell short of a maiden century when he was adjudged leg-before to pacer V. Vyshak. He missed a fine flick, and indicated that the ball was going down leg.

Kaila earned a reprieve early in his essay when Manish Pandey and wicketkeeper S. Sharath fluffed a run-out chance. Pandey attempted a direct hit, when it would have been more prudent to pass the ball to an advancing Sharath.

Kaila received good support from Kunal Mahajan (34, 98b, 4x4), A.K. Kaushik (25, 59b, 3x4) and Mayank Sidhu (31 batting) – all of whom were prepared to grind and play the waiting game.

Bright start

The morning started brightly for Karnataka, which scalped three quick top-order wickets. This included Chandigarh captain Manan Vohra, who played all over a delivery from fast bowler M. Venkatesh to lose his stumps.

The home team bowlers attacked Kaila and his partners with vigour post lunch, but were frustrated to see edges repeatedly fall short of the slip cordon.

Seventeen-year-old left-arm spinner Hardik Raj (2/54) showed character by bowling 28 overs. The teenager kept things tidy, even if the odd loose delivery relieved some pressure on the batters.

With an eye on staying fresh for the knockout rounds (Karnataka is well poised to make the cut), speedster Vidwath Kaverappa was rested.

The scores:

Chandigarh — 1st innings: Shivam Bhambri c Jose b Koushik 0, Arslan Khan c Sharath b Vyshak 8, Manan Vohra b Venkatesh 21, Karan Kaila lbw b Vyshak 79, Kunal Mahajan b Hardik 34, A.K. Kaushik c Sharath b Hardik 25, Mayank Sidhu (batting) 31, Gurinder Singh (batting) 10; Extras (lb-11): 11; Total (for six wkts. in 89 overs): 219.

Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-8, 3-37, 4-108, 5-154, 6-200.

Karnataka bowling: Koushik 14-6-29-1, Vyshak 15-1-48-2, Venkatesh 15-2-41-1, Hardik 28-9-54-2, Shashikumar 16-2-35-0, Samarth 1-0-1-0.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Akshaj stars in DPS (East)'s triumph

Akshaj Kathuria scored a half-century (51) as DPS (East) pipped Presidency School (RT Nagar) by two wickets to win the BTR Shield U-14 (Group I) first division tournament.

The scores: Presidency School, RT Nagar 186/9 in 50 overs (Kashif Ahmed Ali 25, Mohammed Shamsheer 36, Arnav Ravindra Dere 52) lost to DPS, East 189/8 in 44.2 overs (Shahan Shadab 25, Akshaj Kathuria 51, Ekansh Roul 28, Aalapkrishna Manikandan 28, P. Monish 3/35).

Champion: The victorious DPS (East) squad. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Rajan excels in Young Boys' big win

An all-round effort from Rajan (88 & 3/48) helped Young Boys, Kolar thrash Anekal Town CC by 186 runs in the KSCA (Group I) fifth division tournament.

The scores: Johnson 283 in 48.5 overs (P. Shashank 59, Nikhil Gowda 27, S.H. Nagesh 51, A. Narendrababu 46, R. Vishal 3/49, D.V. Raghavendra 4/23) bt Bowlers 214 in 49.2 overs (Sumukh S. Bharadwaj 37, Gouspeer 29, N. Purushottam 39, J.S. Anand 56, M. Naveen 3/63).

St. Joseph's College 213 in 50 overs (V. Shreyas 55, Suhas G. Nair 70, H.N. Gowri Shankar 29 n.o., Prathik Venkatesh 3/48, Monish S. Chawan 3/23) lost to Young Boys CA 217/8 in 48.1 overs (B.K. Dinesh 53, Manish Parasher 60, Likith Manjunatha 26 n.o., Clifford Noel Arun 4/31).

Bangalore Sports 261 in 40 overs (S. Santosh Kumar 57, V. Nandhan 29, G.S. Arun Kumar 80 n.o., Jeetender B. Singh 29, R. Abhishek 3/29) bt Kapali 87 in 22.5 overs (R. Abhishek 26, V. Nandhan 3/3, G. Kroshick 3/16).

Young Boys, Kolar 360/9 in 50 overs (Kiran Gajakosh 50, Rajan 88, Karthik V. Gowda 49, R.V. Chetan 58 n.o., D. Pradeep 3/37) bt Anekal Town 174 in 38.3 overs (T. Bharath 77, M.N. Pavan Kumar 35, D. Pradeep 33, Rajan 3/48, S. Yuvaraj 3/36).

Canara Union 284 in 47.5 overs (C.M. Srinivas 59, Prabhu Raj 44, M. Likith Gowda 35, K. Rajesh 28, V. Chethan 29, Vishal R. Naik 5/26) bt UVCE College 171 in 39.2 overs (H.R. Likith 28, S. Akshay 47, Vishal R. Naik 32, Adarsh Venkatesh 5/22, C.M. Srinivas 4/12).

Bangalore Star CA 306 in 48.3 overs (Akhil Kumar 102, K.L. Chethan 76, K.M. Pruthvi 31, Tushaar A. Singavi 3/58, S.V. Shiva Kumar 3/46) bt Malleswaram SC 104 in 23.1 overs (Karthik Jayaram 30, Lakshmi Kanth 3/17, K.M. Bhanu Prakash 3/25).

Friends 97 in 23.5 overs (Hruthik Roshan 34, K.S. Ramanuja 26, L. Kifayath Pasha 3/24, Kush Kumar Jha 6/33) lost to Kengeri Cricketers 98/3 in 15 overs (A. Muneer Ahmed 32, Adimulam Venkatesh 33 n.o.).

Naeemuddin nets four as AGORC runs riot

Mohd. Naeemuddin scored four goals as AGORC walloped past SAI 7-1 in the Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa Memorial hockey tournament here on Friday.

The results: Kodava Samaja S&RC 5 (V.R. Raghunath 11, 26, Bhavin Kushalappa 14, I.R. Nachappa 54, Pranam Gowda 57) bt Karnataka State Police 1 (Vasanth Kumar 5); AGORC 7 (Mohd. Naeemuddin 17, 21, 40, 44, Trishul Ganapathy 32, Veera Thamizian 37, 49) bt SAI 1 (P.B. Sunil 31).

AGORC FC gets the better of BTM FC

AGORC FC defeated BTM FC 4-2 in the BDFA A-division football league here on Friday.

The results: A-div: AGORC 4 (Sudharshan V. Lokar 6, Surya Vaithilingam 40+3, Arun Pondy 53, P. Sandeep Krishnan 74) bt BTM 2 (Mir Mohamed Raza 60, Gautham Shivakumar 80); Bangalore Eagles 1 (Sanjay Kumar 54) bt ADE 0; **B-div:** Bangalore Warriors FC 1 (K. Kaviarasan 5) bt CIL FC 0.

RANJI SCORES, ROUND 7, DAY 1

Elite: Group A: At Jamshedpur: Jharkhand 188 in 58.3 overs (Utkarsh Singh 43, Saurabh Tiwary 42) vs Rajasthan 79/2 in 29 overs.

At Rajkot: Manipur 142 in 45 overs (Al Bashid Muhammed 51, L.M. Keishangbam 67, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 4/62) vs Saurashtra 153/3 in 43 overs (Harvik Desai 48, Arpit Vasavada 63).

At Delhi: Maharashtra 225 in 79 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 96, Digvijay Patil 42, Varun Choudhary 4/39) vs Services 27/0 in 9 overs.

At Nagpur: Vidarbha 313/5 in 86 overs (Dhruv Shorey 78, Akshay Wadkar 62, Yash Rathod 68 batting, Aditya Sarwate 74 batting) vs Haryana.

Group B: At Mumbai: Assam 84 in 32.1 overs (Shardul Thakur 6/21) vs Mumbai 217/6 in 48.4 overs (Shivam Dube 101 batting).

At Lucknow: Chhattisgarh 238/4 in 87 overs (Sanjeet Desai 113 batting, Amandeep Khare 70 batting) vs UP.

At Kolkata: Bihar 95 in 46.4 overs (Mukesh Kumar 4/18, Suraj Jaiswal 4/47) vs Bengal 111/2 in 33 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran 48 batting).

At Vizianagaram: Andhra 260/7 in 89.3 overs (Maheep Kumar 81, Ricky Bhui 79 batting, Karan Shinde 43) vs Kerala.

Group C: At Salem: Tamil Nadu 291/4 in 90 overs (B. Indrajith 122 batting, Vijay Shankar 85 batting) vs Punjab.

At Porvorim: Goa 309/9 in 83 overs (Darshan Misal 88, Mohit Redkar 80, Arjun Tendulkar 45) vs Gujarat

At Agartala: Tripura 149 in 52.1 overs (Sridam Paul 71, Yuvraj Singh 4/53) vs Railways 72/7 in 26 overs.

At Hubbali: Chandigarh 219/6 in 89 overs (Karan Kaila 79) vs Karnataka.

Group D: At Delhi: Odisha 314/4 in 88 overs (Shantanu Mishra 76, S. Senapati 109 batting, Biplab Samantray 40 batting) vs Delhi.

At Indore: Madhya Pradesh 200 in 65.4 overs (Himanshu Mantri 50, Venkatesh Iyer 62) vs J&K 42/3 in 17 overs.

At Dehradun: Uttarakhand 295/5 in 89 overs (Jiwanjot Singh 139, Deepesh Nainwal 47, Aditya Tare 75 batting) vs Baroda.

At Puducherry: Himachal Pradesh 272/4 in 90 overs (Prashant Chopra 61, Nikhil Gangta 100 batting) vs Pondicherry.

Jiwanjot Singh (Uttarakhand, 139). FILE PHOTO

Knotty Legend obliges

BENGALURU: Prasanna Kumar-trained Knotty Legend (P. Trevor up) won the Roach Lifescapes Bangalore Juvenile Million, the feature event of the races held here on Friday (Feb. 16). The winner is owned by Mr. K. Kamesh, Mr. Ashok Ranpise, Mr. K. Manoj Kumar, Mr. K. Balamukunda Das, Mr. Srikanth Badruka, Mr. M.N. Nambiar, Mr. N. Swaroop Kumar & Mr. K. Shasha Bindu Das. Trevor won three races on the day.

THE RESULTS:

1. SABARMATI PLATE: SPIRIT DANCER (P. Siddaraju) 1, Akasi (Arvind K) 2, Air Blast (Rozario) 3 and Amazing Luck (Rayan) 4. 3-1/2, 1/2 and 2-1/4. 1m, 14.08s. ₹61 (w), 20, 22 and 20 (p), SHP: 78, THP: 63, FP: 436, Q: 350, Trinella: 3,841, Exacta: 54,419 (c/o). Favourite: Dawn Rising.

Owner: Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: S. Ganapathy.

2. SHIVAGANGA FALLS PLATE (DIV. II): EBOTSE (P. Trevor) 1, Sunway Lagoon (P. Sai K) 2, Momentous (S. John) 3 and Sling Shot (P. Surya) 4. 1-3/4, 1 and 3-1/4. 1m, 12.94s. ₹20 (w), 13, 10 and 15 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 43, FP: 52, Q: 33, Trinella: 138, Exacta: 911. Favourite: Ebotse.

Owners: Rajagiri Rubber & Produce Co. Ltd rep. by Mr & Mrs. Dilip Thomas'. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

3. GHATAPRABHA PLATE: MY VISION (Arvind K) 1, Eco Friendly (P. Sai K) 2, Antilope (Jagadeesh) 3 and Sekhmet (Darshan) 4. Lnk, 2 and 1/2. 1m, 37.84s. ₹78 (w), 17, 14 and 32 (p), SHP: 39, THP: 79, FP: 490, Q: 111, Trinella: 3,090, Exacta: 17,162. Favourite: Eco Friendly.

Owner: Mr. Ramesh R. Trainer: S. Inayathulla.

4. SHIVAGANGA FALLS PLATE (DIV. I): KNOTTY CHALLENGER (G. Vivek) 1, High Speed Dive (R. Pradeep) 2, Star Concept (P. Siddaraju) 3 and Lex Luthor (B. Nayak) 4. 3/4, 1-3/4 and 5. 1m, 12.27s. ₹20 (w), 10, 11 and 14 (p), SHP: 26, THP: 31, FP: 37, Q: 16, Trinella: 61, Exacta: 443. Favourite: Knotty Challenger.

Owners: Mr. K. Kamesh, Mr. K. Balamukunda Das, Mr. Srikanth Badruka, Mr. N. Swaroop Kumar, Mr. Dharmesh Mehta, Mr. M.N. Nambiar, Mr. D. Sanjeev Basapa & Mr. Rajkumar S. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

5. R.R. BYRAMJI MEMORIAL MILLION: LOCKHEED (P. Trevor) 1, La Mcqueen (Srinath) 2, Nyx (Neeraj) 3 and Makoto (Suraj Narredu) 4. Not run: Joon and N R I Ace. 3/4, 1-1/2 and 1-1/4. 1m, 12.60s. ₹17 (w), 10, 14 and 16 (p), SHP: 31, THP: 37, FP: 76, Q: 57, Trinella: 289, Exacta: 362. Favourite: Lockheed.

Owners: Mr. Rajan Aggarwal, Mr. Gautam Aggarwal, So Blest Trading Co. Pvt Ltd Mr. K. Mahaveer Chand. Trainer: Darius Byramji.

6. ROACH LIFESCAPES BANGALORE JUVENILE MILLION: KNOTTY LEGEND (P. Trevor) 1, Masato (Suraj) 2, Storm Shadow (G. Vivek) 3 and Vafadar (Srinath) 4. Not run: Priceless Prince. 3-1/4, 7 and 4-1/4. 1m, 24.00s. ₹12 (w), 10 and 11 (p), SHP: 14, THP: 16, FP: 14, Q: 10, Trinella: 19. Favourite: Knotty Legend.

Owners: Mr. K. Kamesh, Mr. Ashok Ranpise, Mr. K. Manoj Kumar, Mr. K. Balamukunda Das, Mr. Srikanth Badruka, Mr. M.N. Nambiar, Mr. N. Swaroop Kumar & Mr. K. Shasha Bindu Das'. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

7. BELLARY PLATE: AHERNE (Suraj) 1, Devils Magic (Srinath) 2, Millbrook (R. Pradeep) 3 and Osiris (P. Sai K) 4. Not run: Armory. 4-1/4, 1-3/4 and 2. 1m, 25.21s. ₹19 (w), 11, 19 and 157 (p), SHP: 37, THP: 329, FP: 70, Q: 43, Trinella: 1,726, Exacta: 27,532. Favourite: Aherne. Owners: Mr. Saurabh Jetli & Mr. Vasanth Kumar R. Trainer: Imtiaz Khan.

Jackpot: ₹1,209 (233 tkts.); Runner-up: 214 (563 tkts.); Treble (i): 1,090 (eight tkts.); (ii): 47 (353 tkts.).

Lukaku. GETTY IMAGES

Lukaku stays hot for Roma

EUROPA LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Romelu Lukaku shouldered in the equaliser to earn Roma a 1-1 draw away to Feyenoord in the first leg of their Europa League playoff on Thursday.

AC Milan beat Rennes 3-0 with England midfielder Ruben Loftus-Cheek scoring two headed goals and Rafael Leao rounding off a dominant home display after a neat exchange with Theo Hernandez.

Important results: Play-off round, first legs: Feyenoord 1 (Paixao 45+1) drew with Roma 1 (Lukaku 67); AC Milan 3 (Loftus-Cheek 32, 48, Rafael Leao 53) bt Rennes 0.

Bonanza awaits Olympic medalists; 2% reservation extended

SPORTS BUDGET

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government, in Friday's State budget tabled for 2024-25, announced a cash bonanza of ₹6 crore for a gold medallist from the State at the upcoming Paris Olympics. The silver and bronze medallists will be awarded ₹4 crore and ₹3 crore respectively.

A prize of ₹35 lakh, ₹25 lakh and ₹15 lakh has been earmarked for gold, silver and bronze medallists at the Commonwealth and Asian Games. But the next editions of the quadrennial competitions will only be in 2026.

It was also resolved to extend the 2% reservation for sportspersons, hitherto available for those being recruited in the Police and Forest departments, to all other departments.

The Budget also proposed to build a sports city of 'modern and international standards' over 70 acres in North Bengaluru via a Public Private Partnership (PPP)

Rifle Shooting Association, Hockey Karnataka, Amateur Boxing Association, Archery Association, Athletic Association, Kayaking and Canoeing Academy, Cycling Academy Vijayapura and Fencing Association will be provided with a total grant of ₹12 crore.

Other highlights: State of the Art sports complexes under PPP in four places of Bengaluru; State-level Olympics and mini Olympics (U-14) every year; Health insurance for sportspersons from Karnataka who get injured in national or international tournaments; Women sports hostels at 14 places in the State with an outlay of ₹35 crore; A permanent sports hostel building in Ponnampete (Kodagu) for ₹5 crore; Funding of ₹10 crore from District Mineral Fund for upgradation of hostel and sports facilities in Ballari.

Indian women assured of historic medal

BATC

Press Trust of India
SHAH ALAM

Indian women shuttlers assured themselves of a historic first-ever Badminton Asia Team Championships medal by cruising to a 3-0 win over Hong Kong but their male counterparts failed to replicate the feat, going down narrowly 2-3 to Japan in the quarterfinals here on Friday.

The results: Quarterfinals: Women: India bt Hong Kong 3-0 (P.V. Sindhu bt Lo Sin Yan Happy 21-7, 16-21, 21-12; Ashwini Ponappa & Tanisha Crasto bt Yeung Nga Ting and Yeung Pui Lam 21-10, 21-14; Ashmita Chaliha bt Yeung Sum Yee 21-12, 21-13).

India lost to Japan 2-3 (H.S. Prannoy lost to Kento Nishimoto 16-21, 24-26; Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty bt Kenya Mitsuhashi & Hiroki Okamura 21-15, 21-17; Lakshya Sen bt Koko Watanabe 21-19, 22-20; M.R. Arjun & Dhruv Kapila lost to Akira Koga & Kazuki Shibata 17-21, 15-21; K. Srikanth lost to Kento Momota 21-17, 9-21, 20-22).

Nagal in semifinals, Ramkumar bows out

Loses in three sets to South Korea's Seongchan Hong in the quarterfinals after seemingly losing focus after run-ins with chair umpire

BENGALURU OPEN

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Ramkumar Ramanathan put up a spirited fight before losing 5-7, 7-5, 4-6 to South Korea's Seongchan Hong in the singles quarterfinal of the dafaNews Bengaluru Open ATP Challenger at the KSLTA courts inside Cubbon Park here on Friday.

Capricious for most part, the match saw some quality tennis, with both players attacking with aplomb. But it was also marked by Ramkumar's repeated run-ins with the chair umpire in the third set, because of which he seemingly lost focus and withered away. Hong broke Ramkumar's serve in the first game of the contest, but the Indian evened matters in the 10th. The crosscourt forehand winner Ramkumar hit on break-point with very little room to work with was indicative of his aggressive mood.

Going full stretch: Hong prevailed over Ramkumar in a match that witnessed quality tennis. SUDHAKARA JAIN

But he got a tad overambitious and that cost him as he lost serve to love in the 11th game and ceded the set soon after.

With his tail up, Hong made the play in the ninth game of the second stanza, but Ramkumar sliced and diced his way out of trouble and saved all four break-points.

But when Hong served at 5-6, Ramkumar converted the first break opportunity to level the tie. However, at 30-all in the first game of the third set, Ramkumar lost his cool over a line call that went against him.

On the subsequent break-point, he double-faulted.

From then on, he remonstrated to no end and even when he earned a break-point in the sixth game, the match never seemed his.

Later in the evening, India No.1 Sumit Nagal brought back the cheer on the supporters' faces with a 7-5, 6-2 victory over Australia's Adam Walton to move into the last four.

Other results (Indians unless specified): Singles:
Quarterfinals: Stefano Napolitano (Ita) bt Moez Echargui (Tun) 6-7(5), 6-4, 6-4; Oriol Roca Batalla (Spa) bt Maks Kasnikowski (Pol) 7-6(5), 4-6, 7-5.

Doubles: Semifinals: Bittoun Kouzmine & Janvier (Fra) bt Matuszewski (Pol) & Romios (Aus) 6-3, 3-6, [10-6].
Myneni & Ramkumar bt Alcantara (Phi) & Uchida (Jpn) 6-2, 2-6, [10-7]..

Nitin Kumar in doubles final

THAMMARAT (THAILAND): Nitin Kumar Sinha and Mitsuki Leong of Malaysia beat Orel Kimhi and Ofek Shimanov of Israel 2-6, 7-5, [10-4] in the $25,000 ITF men's tennis doubles semifinals in Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand, on Friday.

CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED
(A JOINT VENTURE OF GOVT. OF INDIA & GOVT. OF TAMIL NADU)
(ISO 9001:2015 AND IS0 14001:2015 CERTIFIED)
METROS, ANNA SALAI, NANDANAM, CHENNAI - 600 035

E-Tender Notice
National Competitive Bidding

CMRL invites tenders through CPP e-procurement Portal from reputed, experienced, financially sound, eligible applicants, who fulfill the qualification criteria as mentioned in the tender document through National Competitive Bidding under Single Stage Two Envelope (Technical & Financial) system for the works as detailed below:

Tender No: CMRL/P&D/CON/MISC-01/2024: "Construction of Civil, Architectural, MEP & Allied Works in 12th floor of MetroS Building in Nandanam, Anna Salai, Chennai."
(i) Document available from : **27/02/2024**
(ii) Deadline for Bid submission : **26/03/2024 upto 15:00 Hrs.**

Tender No: CMRL/P&D/CON/MISC-02/2024: "Detailed Design and Construction of Saidapet Commercial Complex comprising of Stilt (Parking) + 2 Upper Floors, Architectural, Structural, MEP Works including Lifts, Façade Works, Signages, Landscaping and Horticulture Works."
(i) Document available from : **27/02/2024**
(ii) Deadline for Bid submission : **27/03/2024 upto 15:00 Hrs.**

For further details, please visit :
For NIT : **www.chennaimetrorail.org**
For Downloading Bid Documents : **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app**

DIPR/1038/Tender/2024
Sd/-
Director (Projects)

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 1) Re-E-Tender No 290/2023-24/SE/PHC/CHN, 2) Re-E-Tender No 291/2023-24/SE/PHC/CHN, 3) Re-E-Tender No 293/2023-24/SE/PHC/CHN. Jal Jeevan Mission - 1) WSS to Ramamangalam, Marady & Pampakkuda - Well cum Pump House at Methipara, OHSR at Methipara WTP Site, RWP & CWP, Electrical Installations and Allied Works - General Civil Work. 2) NELLIKUZHY PT - Well cum Pump House, WTP & Row Water Pumping Main - Pipeline Work 3) WSS to Aikkaranadu, Mazhuvannoor & Kunnathunadu Pts - Laying RWPM and CWPM - Pipeline Work, **EMD :** Rs. ₹ 2,00,000/-, ₹ 2,00,000/-, ₹ 5,00,000/-, **Tender fee :** Rs. 13010, 13010, 19518, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 29-02-2024, 03:00:pm
Phone : 0484-2360645, **Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in & www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer
PH Circle, Kochi
KWA-JB-GL-6-2371-2023-24

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TELEMATICS
Electronics City Phase - I, Hosur Road, Bengaluru - 560 100

17.02.2024
Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) invites expression of interest (EOI) from reputed Indian IPR Law practising agencies for empanelment of Intellectual Property (IP) firms for handling all forms of IP applications. Interested parties may download the EOI details from the website www.cdot.in and submit their proposals in sealed covers as per the deadline mentioned in the EOI.

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office:- PSEB Head Office , The Mall, Patiala -147001)
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in

E-Tender Enq. No. 516/P-2/EMP-W-12553 Dtd 09.02.24 Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-2) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024_POWER_117265_1 for Supply retrofitting testing and commissioning of 3 No. 415 Volt 2000 Amp. 3 pole air circuit breakers in place of existing 2000Amp C-Power CN-CS 2000C Air circuit breaker L and T make at 2x850 KW micro hydel plant GGSSTP Ropar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 15.02.24 onwards.
Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at *https://eproc.punjab.gov.in*
RTP-24/24 **76155/12/2722/2023/32564**

CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
3rd & 4th Floor, Chanderlok Building, 36 Janpath, New Delhi-110001, Phone 23353503 FAX: 23753923

Petition No. 379/TD/2023 **Dated: 14.2.2024**

NOTICE UNDER CLAUSE (a) OF SUB-SECTION (5) OF SECTION 15 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003 (the Act)

An application for the grant of a Category-V licence for inter-State trading in electricity across India has been made before the Commission by Serentica Renewables India 2 Private Limited, DLF Cyberpark, Tower – B, 9th Floor, Udyog Vihar, Phase III, Sector 20, Gurgaon, Haryana, India, 122008.

2. A copy of the application, along with its annexures and enclosures, made by the applicant for the grant of an inter-State trading licence to Serentica Renewables India 2 Private Limited before the Commission can be accessed at the website **www.serenticaglobal.com** or inspected by any person in the Commission's office by following the laid down procedure.

3. On consideration of the material available on record, the Commission is satisfied that prima facie the applicant qualifies for the grant of a licence for inter-State trading in electricity and by order dated 14.2.2024, the Commission has proposed to grant a Category-V licence to the applicant for inter-State trading in electricity across India.

4. Notice is hereby given in pursuance of clause (a) of sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act to invite suggestions or objections, if any, to the proposal to grant the licence for inter-State trading in electricity as aforesaid by the Commission to be received by the undersigned latest by **11.3.2024** at the above noted address. The objections or suggestions received after the specified date shall not be considered.

5. The Commission has fixed the application for final disposal on **15.3.2024** and the person who files the suggestions or objections may in his discretion attend the hearing, for which no TA/DA shall be paid by the Commission.

Sd/-
(Harpreet Singh Pruthi)
Secretary

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer (Mahadevpura-Lakes) Room No.306, 3rd Floor, Annex-3 Building, BBMP Head office, N.R.Square, Bengaluru-560 002.

No:EE/Mahadevpura-Lakes/TN-11/2023-24 Date: 16.02.2024

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover System)
Through GoK KPP portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only

The Executive Engineer (Mahadevpura-Lakes), BBMP, Bangalore invites Item rate tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work
1.	**Providing Chain Link Fencing to Lakes In Mahadevpura Assembly Constituency (Call-02). (Category : General). Approx. Amount put to tender** (Rs. in lakhs): **250.00. EMD** (in Rs.): **3,75,000/-.**

Date of Calender: 1. Bid documents can be downloaded from **16-02-2024** from the website (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). **2.** Pre bid meeting will be held on **22-02-2024 at 3.30 p.m**. **3.** Tenders must be submitted online through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal on or **before 4.00 p.m. on 26-02-2024. 4.** Technical Bids will be opened on: **27-02-2024 at 4.30 p.m.**

Sd/-, Executive Engineer, (Mahadevpura-Lakes), BBMP.

एसजेवीएन ग्रीन एनर्जी लिमिटेड
SJVN Green Energy Limited
(A Wholly Owned Subsidiary of SJVN Limited)
CIN: U40100HP2022GOI009237

E- Tender No.: SGEL/CHQ/CONTRACTS/MODULES-ICB/2024
Online bids (E-tender) on **International Competitive Bidding (ICB)** are invited on behalf of SJVN Green Energy Limited for **"MANUFACTURE AND SUPPLY OF SOLAR PV MODULES OF TOTAL 1960 MWp CAPACITY FOR SOLAR POWER PROJECTS TO BE INSTALLED IN VARIOUS STATES OF INDIA."**
For details, visit websites: - **https://www.bharat-electronictender.com, www.eprocure.gov.in** and **www.sjvn.nic.in.** Last date for bid submission is **05.03.2024 (Time: 13:00 Hrs).**
Amendment(s), if any, shall be issued on websites only.
DGM (Contracts)
SJVN Green Energy Limited, Corporate Headquarters, Shakti Sadan Shanan, Shimla (H.P) Email- contracts.sgel@sjvn.nic.in

ANDHRA PRADESH FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking)
Head Office: 3rd Floor, P.V.S. Land Mark, Near APIIC Towers, Mangalagiri, Guntur District, AP-522503. LL No.08645-297211 & 08645-297221
Email: vcmd_apfdc@yahoo.co.in, vcmd.apfdcl@gmail.com, Website: www.apfdcl.com

EUCALYPTUS DEBARKED PULPWOOD SALE NOTICE
Ref.No.OP.001/EPW/2024-25/Gen/1529, Date: 15-02-2024
Sale of about **1.62** lakh metric tonnes of **Eucalyptus debarked pulpwood** anticipated from **(30)** sale units of Eucalyptus Plantations of A.P. Forest Development Corporation Limited, is proposed to be held through e-Tender cum e Auction on "Konugolu", a Govt. of Andhra Pradesh e-Portal i.e., **"https://www.konugolu.ap.gov.in"** from **11.00** hrs to **13.00** hrs (1st spell) and from **14.00** hrs to **16.00** hrs (2nd spell) on **1st of March, 2024.** Units remaining unsold / unconfirmed will be exposed for sale again on **14th March, 2024 & 22nd March, 2024. For More details,** please visit the websites: **https://www.konugolu.ap.gov.in** & **https://www.apfdcl.com.**
Sd/- (Y. Madhusudhana Reddy, IFS.,)
Vice Chairman and Managing Director
DIPR 2715PP/CL, Dt: 16-02-2024

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer (Vijayanagara), Shasakara Bhavana, 1st Floor, 3rd Main, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru-560040

No.: EE(VJN)/AE/TN/GL-08/2023-24 **Date: 16.02.2024**

CORRIGENDUM-2

Subject: Regarding Cancellation of Tender.
Reference: Tender notification No. EE/VJN/AE/TN/GL-08/23-24, Date: 01.02.2024.
With respect to the above subject and referred tender serial number (1) for Construction of 25 bedded Hospital, Dialysis center building including supplying of furniture & fire extinguishing works at GK Naidu Rangamandira in Ward No. 134 Bapujinagar in Vijayanagara Assembly Constituency. Est. Cost Rs. 450.00 Lakhs works tender has been cancelled due to technical reasons.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Vijayanagara Division, BBMP

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, ELECTRICAL CIRCLE (R&B), NIRMAN SOUDHA, BHUBANESWAR
E-mail : seec.bbsr2010@gmail.com
Bid Identification No.S.E.E.C (R&B) 31/2023-24
No. 439 / Date 09.02.2024 /

The Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha. Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for E.I. works which are to be received through online bidding, double cover system as detailed in : **https://tendersorissa.gov.in**. The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from **dt.16.02.2024 at 05.00 P.M. to dt.26.02.2024 up to 05.00 P.M**. The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened **dt.26.02.2024 at 05.30 P.M.** in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, Bhubaneswar. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**.
Addendum / Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.
Superintending Engineer,
Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, BBSR.
B-: OIPR-34006/11/0040/2324

TAMILNADU MINERALS LIMITED
(An Undertaking of Government of Tamil Nadu)
No.31, Kamarajar Salai, Chepauk, Chennai - 600 005. Phone No.044-29862018, 28511972
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

1	Description	Selection of Implementation agency for design, develop, implement and maintain the ERP software.
2	Tender Reference No.&Date Tender IDs	**303/E6/2022, Dated:16.02.2024** **2024_TNMIN_426169_1**
3	Bid submission end date	**25.03.2024 up to 16.00 hrs.**
4	Technical bid opening date	**26.03.2024 at 16.00 hrs.**
5	EMD	Rs.1,00,000/- (Rupees One lakh only)

Note: For further details please visit Tamilnadu e-tendering portal: **https://tntenders.gov.in**
DIPR/1043/TENDER/2024 **GENERAL MANAGER(FINANCE)**

BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Office, Mechanical Engineering Department K.H. Road, Shantinagar, Bengaluru-560 027. Tele No.080-22537519
TENDER NO: BMTC/2023-24/SE0295 Dated: 16.02.2024

SHORT-TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through e-procurement mode only)

(1) BMTC invites Tender through E-Procurement Portal for **Selection of Service Provider for Procurement, Operation and Maintenance of 320 Nos. low floor, 400mm floor height City type AC Electric Buses on Gross Cost Contract (GCC) Model. (2)** Last Date for Bid Submission in e-procurement portal **on 23.2.2024 at 17:30 Hours.** Further, any addendum/corrigendum in respect of changes in calendar of events, scope, other tender terms & conditions etc., will be uploaded/Published through e-portal only. **NOTE:** Interested Bidders need to register in the GoK e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for details. In case of further assistance, the bidders may contact e-procurement Help Desk for support Ph: 080-46010000, or 080-68948777 or email at **eprocurementhelpdesk@gmail.com.** Interested suppliers may also contact e-procurement cell for training on bid submission. E-mail to **eprocurementhelpdesk@gmail.com** for further information if required.
Sd/- CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER (Tender Inviting Authority)

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail : ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CE-W.B.P.(O) - 55 / 2023-24

1. The Chief Engineer (World Bank Project), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Construction of Road & Bridge work as detailed below:
2. Nature of work : **Bridge Work**
3. No. of work : **01 No.**
4. Tender Cost : **Rs.10,000.00 (On-line)**
5. Class of Contractor : **'A' / 'Special' Class Contractor**
6. Available of bid document in the website. : **From 10.00 A.M. of 13.02.2024 to 5.00 PM of 27.02.2024**
7. Date of opening of Bid : **Dt.28.02.2024 at 11.30 AM**
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : **https://tenderodisha.gov.in** . Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Engineer-in-Chief
(I/C) Chief Engineer (Bridges), WBP, Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
B-: OIPR-34174/11/0003/2324

भारी वाहन निर्माणी
आर्मर्ड व्हीकल्स निगम लिमिटेडकी इकाई
भारत सरकार का उद्यम
रक्षा मंत्रालय

HEAVY VEHICLES FACTORY
UNIT OF ARMOURED VEHICLES NIGAM LIMITED
A GOVT. OF INDIA ENTERPRISE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

CIN-U35990TN2021GOI145504

Short Advertisement for
ENGAGEMENT OF PROFESSIONALS ON FIXED TERM CONTRACT BASIS IN HVF – A UNIT OF AVNL

Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVANI) (AVNL) is a new Defence PSU with its headquarters at Avadi (Chennai). It has five (05) constituent production units and has around 12,000 employees. AVNL produces battle tanks i.e T-72, T-90, MBT Arjun and Infantry Combat Vehicles, support vehicles (MPV, AERV etc.) and defence mobility solutions (Stallion, LPTA etc.) for the armed forces and homeland security agencies. It is the current market leader in this segment. It is a new Government Company with Great Future. It offers great work environment and challenging opportunities for the professionals to prove their mettle. Applications are invited from professionals for the following positions on fixed term contract basis in Heavy Vehicles Factory – Unit of AVNL located at Avadi, Chennai - 600 054. Engagement is based on selection through short listing and interview.

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Vacancies	Total Consolidated Remuneration (Per Month) (All inclusive)	Nature of Appointment
1.	Design Engineer / Mechanical (Contract)	04 [03-UR, 01-OBC]	Rs.50,000/-	Engagement of Professionals on Full Time Fixed Term Contract Basis.
2.	Senior Design Engineer / Mechanical (Contract)	01 [01-UR]	Rs.60,000/-	
3.	Senior Design Engineer / Electrical (Contract)	01 [01-UR]	Rs.60,000/-	
Total		06		

The last date of receipt of application will be **21 days** from the date of publication of this advertisement in the Employment News. For further information please visit our **AVNL website** (**www.avnl.co.in**) for detailed job specification, scope of work, reporting mechanism, remuneration, allowances, qualification, experience, age limit, tenure and procedure for applying for the said posts.

Note:
Any corrigendum/amendment in this advertisement will be published/ uploaded on **AVNL website** (**www.avnl.co.in**) only.

HR Division, HVF- Unit of AVNL
Chennai
Dated : 17/02/2024
Email: hvf@ord.gov.in
Tele: 044-26843211

Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Regd. Office: Nagarabhivriddhi Bhavan, # 22, 17th 'F' Cross, Old Madras Road, Indiranagar, Bengaluru-560 038,
Website: **www.kuidfc.com e-Mail: info@kuidfc.com**
No. KUIDFC/KUWSMP/ER-2/295 V-4/2023-24 **Date: 15/02/2024**

Request for Proposal to appoint an "Expert Reviewer" to provide independent expert review support to the parties under the Operations Agreement for KUWSM Project in Hubballi-Dharwad, Belagavi and Kalaburagi cities.

(Through KPP Portal Only)
Indent No.: KUIDFC/2023-24/SE0012

KUIDFC is implementing 24x7 Continuous Pressurized Water Supply Scheme under the World Bank assisted "Karnataka Urban Water Supply Modernization Project" (KUWSMP) in Hubballi-Dharwad, Belagavi and Kalaburagi cities. KUIDFC intends **to Appoint an "Expert Reviewer" to provide independent expert review support to the parties under the DBOT contracts in respect of the 3 project cities of Belagavi, Kalburgi and Hubballi-Dharwad cities.**

Interested Expert Reviewer may submit RFPs online through KPP Portal by **17:30 Hrs on 16/03/2024** (as per KPP Portal time). Details of the RFPs on the proposed assignment is available on the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and KUIDFC **website: www.kuidfc.com from 15/02/2024.** For any clarifications please contact The Task Manager, KUWSMP, PMU, KUIDFC Bengaluru.

Note: Any Addendum/Corrigendum shall be notified only in the above said websites and no paper notification shall be issued.

Telephone: +91 080 25196124; Facsimile: +91 080 25196110.

Sd/- Task Manager, Project Monitoring Unit, KUWSMP, KUIDFC, Bengaluru

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
 # 49, East Wing , 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383. Website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-57/725/2023-24 **Date:15.02.2024**

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid Class-III & above (Civil) issued from KPWD, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following work of **Providing & Laying of Speed Brakers to Road No.30, 29 Cheeluru Village Road No-18,10,6,5 and Providing & Fixing Gantry Reflective Direction Board at (Road No.6 & 10) and signboards at Harohalli 3rd Phase Industrial Area, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District.**

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **26.02.2024 upto 04:00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer - 1
DIPR/CP/JA/3639/2023-24

India registers a hard-fought victory

Gurjant sounds the board with a last-minute shot in a match that made for boring visuals and fascinating lessons; Australia beats Netherlands

Last-gasp effort: Gurjant, right, being congratulated by teammates after finding the target in the dying seconds of the game. BISWARANJAN ROUT

FIH PRO LEAGUE

Uthra Ganesan
BHUBANESWAR

India won 1-0 against Ireland in their final FIH Pro League match here on Friday, courtesy of a last-minute shot from Gurjant Singh, but it was a game the host would hope to remember and learn a lot from about how much work it still needs to do to and forget in terms of the result.

It was a tactically brilliant game between coach Fulton's current and former wards, one for the textbooks but nothing for the viewers.

Plans in place

The Irish had their plans clear – defend in numbers, don't bother much with attack unless in with a clear chance, and deny India any shot at goal.

They did it admirably almost till the very end. With clean tackling and precise defending, they negated anything India tried to throw at them. It made for boring visuals and fascinating lessons.

For extended periods, all 11 Irishmen were packed inside the circle and still India could not find a way to get too many PCs. When it did – six in total – the Irish defence and goalkeeper Jamie Carr stood firm.

And yet, despite the relentless pressing, there was little creativity from India to disrupt the defence. India seemed to be waiting for things to happen rather than making them happen.

Poor basics including trapping and passing did not help, off-target hurried shots threatened little and for once, the Indians looked spent, both in body and mind. Post-break, the Irish got a little more adventurous and attacked more but were unable to score.

The deadlock-breaker came when Hardik passed the ball to Gurjant, who waited for it to cross into the circle before smashing in from the top, finally managing to beat Carr for India's second win in the competition as Fulton looked more relieved than happy.

The day's earlier game was a contrast with the Dutch showing how to cut Australia's speed and get open goals without waiting for PCs, at least for the first half. They raced to a 3-0 lead before the Aussies regrouped, changed plans and struck five goals, including three in the final quarter, for a 5-4 win, the winner coming with less than 40 seconds on the clock.

Contrasting styles

The clash of contrasting styles seemed to go the Dutch way – building patiently, switching flanks smoothly, long, grounded passes with pin-point accuracy and one-touch hockey of possession that curbed the natural Aussie blistering pace with perfect positioning inside the circle – post break, the Australians restricted the zones, stuck to short passes to gradually push back and, once past the 25-yard line, accelerating at will to break into the Dutch circle.

The results:
Australia 5 (Blake Govers 33, 53, Jeremy Hayward 40, 48, Tim Brand 60) bt Netherlands 4 (Duco Telgenkamp 6, Koen Bijen 12, 20, Jip Janssen 56).
India 1 (Gurjant Singh 60) bt Ireland 0.

Manu bags a bronze in air pistol

Sports Bureau

Manu Bhaker won the air pistol bronze and missed the chance for a better medal by 0.5 point in the shooting World Cup in Granada, Spain, on Friday.

Interestingly, Miranda tied with Klaudia Bres of Poland at 236.2 after 24 shots in the final, but the latter won the shoot-off 10.2 to 9.8 for the gold.

India continued to stay on the top of the medals table with four gold, three silver and three bronze.

The results: Air pistol: Men: 1. Juraj Tuzinsky (Svk) 244.2 (585), 2. Lauris Strautmanis (Lat) 242.4 (584), 3. Bugra Selimzade (Tur) 220.6 (585); 10. Sarabjot Singh 581.

Women: 1. Klaudia Bres (Pol) 236.2 (10.2) 576, 2. Andrea Miranda (Mex) 236.2 (9.8) 576, 3. Manu Bhaker 215.1 (576); 8. Rhythm Sangwan 111.4 (580).

Sangwan's strike proves the difference as Chennaiyin prevails over Blasters

ISL-10

Sankar Narayanan E.H.
CHENNAI

Chennaiyin FC extended its unbeaten run at home against Kerala Blasters FC to nine games with a 1-0 victory at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here on Friday.

Aakash Sangwan found the net for the host – his first in the Indian Super League – right on the hour mark. Farukh Choudhary received a throw from Sangwan and flicked a pass to the Chennaiyin defender who cut across the KBFC defence and sent in a shot with the outside of his left foot, which beat the dives of Marko Leskovic and goalkeeper Karanjit Singh.

KBFC, currently on a five-match winless run, is fourth on the points table with 26 points from 15 games. Owen Coyle's side lies eighth with 15 points from 14 outings.

Matching wits: Sangwan, right, and Sakai in an intense piece of action. M. VEDHAN

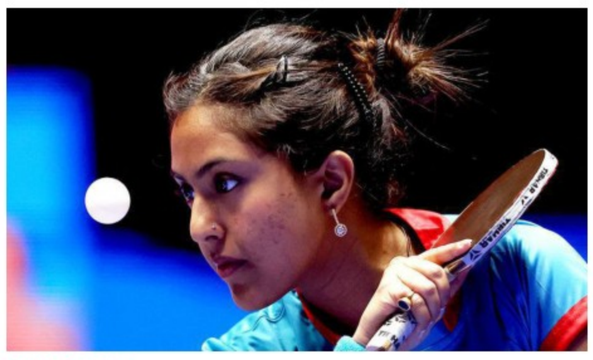
The first-half saw both teams finding it tough to piece together productive passes as CFC and KBFC only had 74 and 55% passing accuracy respectively in the period. However, Rafael Crivellaro and Rahim Ali linked well together and tested the KBFC defence a couple of times.

The visitor had to replace custodian Sachin Suresh after he injured himself in the 33rd minute.

The second essay saw CFC dominating proceedings. However, the home side was reduced to 10 men in the 81st minute as Ankit Mukherjee was given a second yellow card for pulling on Karanjit's jersey.

Ivan Vukomanovic's team, which missed the services of striker Dimitrios Diamantakos due to an injury he picked up during training, could not equalise despite trying its best.

The result: Chennaiyin FC 1 (Sangwan 60) bt Kerala Blasters FC 0.



Rousing start: Ayhika stunned World No. 1 Yingsha. REUTERS

China downs a spirited India

Sports Bureau

Top seed China stopped a fighting India 3-2 in the opening women's group match of the World team table tennis championships in Busan on Friday.

After Ayhika Mukherjee gave India a rousing start with a stunning win over World No.1 Sun Yingsha in the first rubber but China levelled things when World No. 4 Wang Manyu scripted a 11-3, 11-8, 13-15, 11-7 victory over Manika Batra.

Sreeja Akula outwitted Wang Yidi to hand India a 2-1 lead. Hopes hinged on Manika, but she was inconsistent and lost to Yingsha. In the decider, Ayhika couldn't do an encore as she went lost to Manyu. in three straight games.

The results: China bt India 3-2
(Sun Yingsha lost to Ayhika Mukherjee 10-12, 11-2, 11-13, 6-11; Wang Manyu bt Manika Batra 11-3, 11-8, 13-15, 11-7; Wang Yidi lost to Sreeja Akula 7-11, 9-11, 11-13; Yingsha bt Manika 11-3, 11-6, 11-13, 11-9; Manyu bt Ayhika 11-9, 13-11, 11-6).

Mumbai Meteors outslug Delhi Toofans in humdinger

PVL

Netra. V
CHENNAI

Mumbai Meteors edged past debutant Delhi Toofans 3-2 in a five-set thriller in the Prime Volleyball League at the SDAT multi-purpose indoor stadium here on Friday.

After a flurry of mistakes from both sides, Delhi slowly took a slender 6-5 lead. Colombian middle blocker Daniel Aponza led the charge for the new franchise, but consecutive super points helped Mumbai level scores 10-10. Mumbai eventually sealed the set 15-13, courtesy a super serve from Shubham Chaudhary.

Despite a few errors making their way into the Meteors' execution, Mumbai kept calm to clinch the second set 17-15. Santhosh then combined with Anu James to steady the Toofans' ship, but Meteors restored parity at 9-9 thanks to Shubham's heroics. However, Anand's retrieve near the barricade proved the turning point of the third set. Delhi powered to a 15-13 win to stay alive.

Delhi kept Mumbai's resistance at bay, leading the fourth set 7-2. Mumbai ran its opponent close but the set eventually went to Delhi.

With much pressure on the final deciding set, there were errors aplenty from both outfits, but, Mumbai did just enough to win and clinch two points.

Ashwal Rai's Kolkata Thunderbolts lost to the 2023 runner-up Bengaluru Torpedoes 14-16, 16-14, 13-15, 10-15 on Thursday.

The results: Mumbai Meteors bt Delhi Toofans 3-2 (15-13, 17-15, 13-15, 13-15, 17-15).
Thursday: Kolkata Thunderbolts lost to Bengaluru Torpedoes 1-3 (14-16, 16-14, 13-15, 10-15).

Tough match: The Meteors pipped Toofans 3-2 in a five-set thriller. R. RAVINDRAN

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